VT1419A
Multifunction *Plus*
Measurement and Control Module

User's Manual

APPLICABILITY

This manual edition is intended for use with the following instrument drivers:

- Downloaded driver revision A.01.02 or later for Command Modules
- C-SCPI driver revision D.01.02 or later

Call your local VXI Technology Sales Office for information on other drivers.

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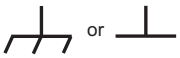
Indicates the field wiring terminal that must be connected to earth ground before operating the equipment—protects against electrical shock in case of fault.



Frame or chassis ground terminal—typically connects to the equipment's metal frame.

Alternating current (ac).

Direct current (dc).

Indicates hazardous voltages.

WARNING Calls attention to a procedure, practice or condition that could cause bodily injury or death.

CAUTION Calls attention to a procedure, practice, or condition that could possibly cause damage to equipment or permanent loss of data.

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The following general safety precautions must be observed during all phases of operation, service, and repair of this product. Failure to comply with these precautions or with specific warnings elsewhere in this manual violates safety standards of design, manufacture and intended use of the product. VXI Technology assumes no liability for the customer's failure to comply with these requirements.

Ground the equipment: For Safety Class 1 equipment (equipment having a protective earth terminal), an uninterruptible safety earth ground must be provided from the mains power source to the product input wiring terminals or supplied power cable.

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Declaration of Conformity

according to ISO/IEC Guide 22 and EN 45014

Manufacturer's Name: VXI Technology, Inc.

Manufacturer's Address: 2031 Main Street
Irvine, CA 92614-6509

declares, that the product:

Product Name: Multifunction*Plus* Measurement and Control Module

Model Number: VT1419A

Product Options: All

conforms to the following Product Specifications:

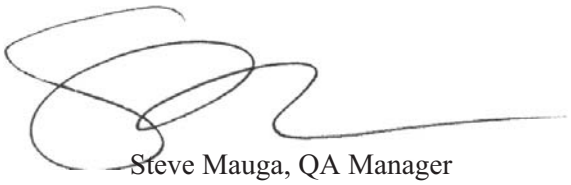
Safety: IEC 1010-1 (1990) Incl. Amend 1 (1992)/EN61010-1 (1993)
CSA C22.2 #1010.1 (1992)
UL 3111

EMC:

CISPR 11:1990/EN55011 (1991):	Group 1 Class A
IEC 801-2:1991/EN50082-1 (1992):	4kV CD, 8kV AD
IEC 801-3:1984/EN50082-1 (1992):	3V/m
IEC 801-4:1988/EN50082-1 (1992):	1kV Power Line 0.5kV Signal Lines

Supplementary Information: The product herewith complies with the requirements of the Low Voltage Directive 73/23/EEC and the EMC Directive 89/336/EEC (inclusive 93/68/EEC) and carries the "CE" marking accordingly.

Tested in a typical configuration in an HP C-Size VXI mainframe.



July 30, 2004 Steve Mauga, QA Manager

Table of Contents

Warranty 2
Warnings 3
Safety Symbols 3
Note for European Customers 3
Support Resources 13

Chapter 1. Getting Started 15
About This Chapter 15
Configuring the VT1419A 15
Setting the Logical Address Switch 15
Installing SCPs 16
Disabling the Input Protect Feature (Optional) 21
Disabling Flash Memory Access (Optional) 21
Instrument Drivers 23
About Example Programs 23
Verifying a Successful Configuration 23

Chapter 2. Field Wiring 25
About This Chapter 25
Planning the Wiring Layout 25
SCP Positions and Channel Numbers 25
SCP Types and Signal Paths 25
Pairing Sense and Source SCPs for Resistance Measurements 27
Planning for Thermocouple Measurements 28
Faceplate Connector Pin-Signal Lists 29
Optional Terminal Modules 30
The SCPs and Terminal Module Connections 30
Option 11 Terminal Module Layout 31
Option 12 Terminal Module Layout 32
Reference Temperature Sensing with the VT1419A 33
Configuring the On-Board/Remote Reference Jumpers 34
Preferred Measurement Connections 36
Wiring and Attaching the Terminal Module 39
Attaching/Removing the VT1419A Terminal Module 41
Adding Components to the Option 12 Terminal Module 43
Option 11 Terminal Module Wiring Map 44
Option 12 Terminal Module Wiring Map 45
The Option A3F 46

Chapter 3. Programming the VT1419A Multifunction*Plus* 47
About This Chapter 47
Overview of the VT1419A Multifunction*Plus* 48
Multifunction*Plus*? 48
Operating Model 52
Executing The Programming Model 53
Power-On and *RST Default Settings 53
Setting Up Analog Input and Output Channels 56
Configuring Programmable Analog SCP Parameters 56

Setting Filter Cutoff Frequency . . . 57
Linking Channels to EU Conversion . . . 58
Linking Output Channels to Functions . . . 66
Setting Up Digital Input and Output Channels . . . 66
Setting Up Digital Inputs . . . 66
Setting Up Digital Outputs . . . 67
Performing Channel Calibration (Important!) . . . 71
Defining C Language Algorithms . . . 73
Global Variable Definition . . . 73
Algorithm Definition . . . 74
Pre-Setting Algorithm Variables . . . 74
Defining Data Storage . . . 75
Specifying the Data Format . . . 75
Selecting the FIFO Mode . . . 76
Setting up the Trigger System . . . 77
Arm and Trigger Sources . . . 77
Programming the Trigger Timer . . . 79
Setting the Trigger Counter . . . 79
Outputting Trigger Signals . . . 79
Initiating/Running Algorithms . . . 80
Starting Algorithms . . . 80
The Operating Sequence . . . 81
Retrieving Algorithm Data . . . 81
Modifying Running Algorithm Variables . . . 85
Updating the Algorithm Variables and Coefficients . . . 85
Enabling and Disabling Algorithms . . . 85
Setting Algorithm Execution Frequency . . . 86
Example Command Sequence . . . 86
Using the Status System . . . 88
Enabling Events to be Reported in the Status Byte . . . 91
Reading the Status Byte . . . 92
Clearing the Enable Registers . . . 93
The Status Byte Group's Enable Register . . . 93
Reading Status Groups Directly . . . 93
VT1419A Background Operation . . . 94
Updating the Status System and VXIbus Interrupts . . . 95
Creating and Loading Custom EU Conversion Tables . . . 96
Compensating for System Offsets . . . 97
Special Considerations . . . 99
Detecting Open Transducers . . . 100
More On Auto Ranging . . . 101
Settling Characteristics . . . 101
Background . . . 101
Checking for Problems . . . 102
Fixing the Problem . . . 102

Chapter 4. The Algorithm Language and Environment . . . 105
About This Chapter . . . 105
Overview of the Algorithm Language . . . 106
Example Language Usage . . . 107
The Algorithm Execution Environment . . . 108
The Main Function . . . 108

How User Algorithms Fit In . . . 108
Accessing the VT1419A's Resources . . . 109
Accessing I/O Channels . . . 110
Defining and Accessing Global Variables . . . 111
Determining First Execution (First_loop) . . . 111
Initializing Variables . . . 112
Sending Data to the CVT and FIFO . . . 112
Setting a VXIbus Interrupt . . . 113
Calling User Defined Functions . . . 114
Operating Sequence . . . 114
Overall Sequence . . . 114
Algorithm Execution Order . . . 116
Defining Algorithms (ALG:DEF) . . . 116
ALG:DEFINE in the Programming Sequence . . . 116
ALG:DEFINE's Two Data Formats . . . 117
Changing an Algorithm While It Is Running . . . 118
A Very Simple First Algorithm . . . 120
Writing the Algorithm . . . 120
Running the Algorithm . . . 120
Non-Control Algorithms . . . 121
Data Acquisition Algorithm . . . 121
Process Monitoring Algorithm . . . 121
Algorithm Language Reference . . . 122
Standard Reserved Keywords . . . 122
Special VT1419A Reserved Keywords . . . 122
Identifiers . . . 122
Special Identifiers for Channels . . . 123
Operators . . . 123
Intrinsic Functions and Statements . . . 124
Program Flow Control . . . 124
Data Types . . . 125
Data Structures . . . 126
Using Type Float in Integer Situations . . . 127
Language Syntax Summary . . . 129
Program Structure and Syntax . . . 133
Declaring Variables . . . 133
Assigning Values . . . 133
The Operations Symbols . . . 134
Conditional Execution . . . 134
Comment Lines . . . 136
Overall Program Structure . . . 137
About This Chapter . . . 139
Wiring Connections and File Locations for the Examples . . . 143
Example File Location . . . 143
Installing Example Files . . . 143
Virtual Front Panel Program . . . 144
Calibration . . . 147
Function Test . . . 148
Programming Model Example . . . 149
Error Checking . . . 152
Configuration Display . . . 153
Engineering Unit Conversion . . . 154

Custom Function Generation . . . 156
Custom EU/Function Example . . . 158
Curve Fitting and EU Generation . . . 160
Interrupt Handling . . . 161
Simple Data Logger Example . . . 163
Modification of Variables and Arrays . . . 166
Algorithm Modification . . . 168
Driver Download . . . 170
Firmware-Update Download . . . 171

Chapter 6. VT1419A Command Reference . . . 173
ABORt . . . 185
ALGorithm . . . 186
ALGorithm[:EXPLicit]:ARRay . . . 187
ALGorithm[:EXPLicit]:ARRay? . . . 188
ALGorithm[:EXPLicit]:DEFine . . . 188
ALGorithm[:EXPLicit]:SCALar . . . 192
ALGorithm[:EXPLicit]:SCALar? . . . 193
ALGorithm[:EXPLicit]:SCAN:RATio . . . 193
ALGorithm[:EXPLicit]:SCAN:RATio? . . . 194
ALGorithm[:EXPLicit]:SIZe? . . . 194
ALGorithm[:EXPLicit][:STATe] . . . 195
ALGorithm[:EXPLicit][:STATe]? . . . 196
ALGorithm[:EXPLicit]:TIME? . . . 196
ALGorithm:FUNCtion:DEFine . . . 197
ALGorithm:OUTPut:DELay . . . 198
ALGorithm:OUTPut:DELay? . . . 199
ALGorithm:UPDate[:IMMediate] . . . 199
ALGorithm:UPDate:CHANnel . . . 200
ALGorithm:UPDate:WINDow . . . 202
ALGOrithm:UPDate:WINDow? . . . 203
ARM . . . 204
ARM[:IMMediate] . . . 205
ARM:SOURce . . . 205
ARM:SOURce? . . . 206
CALibration . . . 207
CALibration:CONFigure:RESistance . . . 208
CALibration:CONFigure:VOLTage . . . 209
CALibration:SETup . . . 210
CALibration:SETup? . . . 210
CALibration:STORe . . . 211
CALibration:TARE . . . 212
CALibration:TARE:RESet . . . 214
CALibration:TARE? . . . 214
CALibration:VALue:RESistance . . . 214
CALibration:VALue:VOLTage . . . 215
CALibration:ZERO? . . . 216
DIAGnostic . . . 218
DIAGnostic:CALibration:SETup[:MODE] . . . 219
DIAGnostic:CALibration:SETup[:MODE]? . . . 219
DIAGnostic:CALibration:TARE[:OTDetect]:MODE . . . 220
DIAGnostic:CALibration:TARE[:OTDetect]:MODE? . . . 220

DIAGnostic:CHECksum? . . . 221
DIAGnostic:CUSTom:LINear . . . 221
DIAGnostic:CUSTom:PIECewise . . . 222
DIAGnostic:CUSTom:REFerence:TEMPerature . . . 222
DIAGnostic:IEEE . . . 223
DIAGnostic:IEEE? . . . 223
DIAGnostic:INTerrupt[:LINe] . . . 223
DIAGnostic:INTerrupt[:LINe]? . . . 224
DIAGnostic:OTDetect[:STATe] . . . 224
DIAGnostic:OTDetect[:STATe]? . . . 225
DIAGnostic:QUERy:SCPREAD? . . . 225
DIAGnostic:VERSion? . . . 226
FETCh? . . . 227
FORMat . . . 229
FORMat[:DATA] . . . 229
FORMat[:DATA]? . . . 230
INITiate . . . 232
INITiate[:IMMediate] . . . 232
INPut . . . 233
INPut:DEBounce:TIME . . . 233
INPut:FILTer[:LPASs]:FREQuency . . . 234
INPut:FILTer[:LPASs]:FREQuency? . . . 235
INPut:FILTer[:LPASs][:STATe] . . . 236
INPut:FILTer[:LPASs][:STATe]? . . . 236
INPut:GAIN . . . 237
INPut:GAIN? . . . 237
INPut:LOW . . . 238
INPut:LOW? . . . 238
INPut:POLarity . . . 239
INPut:POLarity? . . . 239
INPut:THReshold:LEVel? . . . 239
MEMory . . . 241
MEMory:VME:ADDRess . . . 242
MEMory:VME:ADDRess? . . . 242
MEMory:VME:SIZE . . . 242
MEMory:VME:SIZE? . . . 243
MEMory:VME:STATe . . . 243
MEMory:VME:STATe? . . . 244
OUTPut . . . 245
OUTPut:CURRent:AMPLitude . . . 245
OUTPut:CURRent:AMPLitude? . . . 246
OUTPut:CURRent[:STATe] . . . 247
OUTPut:CURRent[:STATe]? . . . 247
OUTPut:POLarity . . . 248
OUTPut:POLarity? . . . 248
OUTPut:SHUNt . . . 248
OUTPut:SHUNt? . . . 249
OUTPut:TTLTrg:SOURce . . . 249
OUTPut:TTLTrg:SOURce? . . . 250
OUTPut:TTLTrg<n>[:STATe] . . . 250
OUTPut:TTLTrg<n>[:STATe]? . . . 251
OUTPut:TYPE . . . 251

OUTPut:TYPE? . . . 252
OUTPut:VOLTage:AMPLitude . . . 252
OUTPut:VOLTage:AMPLitude? . . . 252
ROUTe . . . 254
ROUTe:SEQuence:DEFine? . . . 254
ROUTe:SEQuence:POINts? . . . 255
SAMPle . . . 256
SAMPle:TIMer . . . 256
SAMPle:TIMer? . . . 256
[SENSe] . . . 258
[SENSe:]CHANnel:SETTling . . . 259
[SENSe:]CHANnel:SETTling? . . . 260
[SENSe:]DATA:CVTable? . . . 260
[SENSe:]DATA:CVTable:RESet . . . 261
[SENSe:]DATA:FIFO[:ALL]? . . . 261
[SENSe:]DATA:FIFO:COUNt? . . . 262
[SENSe:]DATA:FIFO:COUNt:HALF? . . . 263
[SENSe:]DATA:FIFO:HALF? . . . 263
[SENSe:]DATA:FIFO:MODE . . . 264
[SENSe:]DATA:FIFO:MODE? . . . 264
[SENSe:]DATA:FIFO:PART? . . . 265
[SENSe:]DATA:FIFO:RESet . . . 265
[SENSe:]FREQuency:APERture . . . 266
[SENSe:]FREQuency:APERture? . . . 267
[SENSe:]FUNCtion:CONDition . . . 267
[SENSe:]FUNCtion:CUSTom . . . 268
[SENSe:]FUNCtion:CUSTom:REFerence . . . 269
[SENSe:]FUNCtion:CUSTom:TCouple . . . 270
[SENSe:]FUNCtion:FREQuency . . . 271
[SENSe:]FUNCtion:RESistance . . . 271
[SENSe:]FUNCtion:STRain:FBENding . . . 272
[SENSe:]FUNCtion:TEMPerature . . . 274
[SENSe:]FUNCtion:TOTalize . . . 275
[SENSe:]FUNCtion:VOLTage[:DC] . . . 276
[SENSe:]REFerence . . . 277
[SENSe:]REFerence:CHANnels . . . 278
[SENSe:]REFerence:TEMPerature . . . 279
[SENSe:]STRain:EXCitation . . . 279
[SENSe:]STRain:EXCitation? . . . 280
[SENSe:]STRain:GFACtor . . . 280
[SENSe:]STRain:GFACtor? . . . 280
[SENSe:]STRain:POISson . . . 281
[SENSe:]STRain:POISson? . . . 281
[SENSe:]STRain:UNSTrained . . . 282
[SENSe:]STRain:UNSTrained? . . . 282
[SENSe:]TOTalize:RESet:MODE . . . 283
[SENSe:]TOTalize:RESet:MODE? . . . 284
SOURce . . . 285
SOURce:FM[:STATe] . . . 285
SOURce:FM:STATe? . . . 286
SOURce:FUNCtion[:SHAPe]:CONDition . . . 286
SOURce:FUNCtion[:SHAPe]:PULSe . . . 287

SOURce:FUNCtion[:SHAPe]:SQUare . . . 287
SOURce:PULM[:STATe] . . . 287
SOURce:PULM:STATe? . . . 288
SOURce:PULSe:PERiod . . . 288
SOURce:PULSe:PERiod? . . . 289
SOURce:PULSe:WIDTh . . . 289
SOURce:PULSe:WIDTh? . . . 289
STATus . . . 291
STATus:OPERation:CONDition? . . . 293
STATus:OPERation:ENABle . . . 294
STATus:OPERation:ENABle? . . . 294
STATus:OPERation[:EVENt]? . . . 295
STATus:OPERation:NTRansition . . . 295
STATus:OPERation:NTRansition? . . . 296
STATus:OPERation:PTRansition . . . 296
STATus:OPERation:PTRansition? . . . 297
STATus:PRESet . . . 297
STATus:QUEStionable:CONDition? . . . 298
STATus:QUEStionable:ENABle . . . 299
STATus:QUEStionable:ENABle? . . . 299
STATus:QUEStionable[:EVENt]? . . . 299
STATus:QUEStionable:NTRansition . . . 300
STATus:QUEStionable:NTRansition? . . . 301
STATus:QUEStionable:PTRansition . . . 301
STATus:QUEStionable:PTRansition? . . . 302
SYSTem . . . 303
SYSTem:CTYPe? . . . 303
SYSTem:ERRor? . . . 304
SYSTem:VERSion? . . . 304
TRIGger . . . 305
TRIGger:COUNt . . . 307
TRIGger:COUNt? . . . 307
TRIGger[:IMMediate] . . . 308
TRIGger:SOURce . . . 308
TRIGger:SOURce? . . . 309
TRIGger:TIMer[:PERiod] . . . 309
TRIGger:TIMer[:PERiod]? . . . 310
Common Command Reference . . . 311
*CAL? . . . 311
*CLS . . . 312
*DMC <*name*>,<*cmd_data*> . . . 312
*EMC . . . 312
*EMC? . . . 312
*ESE <*mask*> . . . 312
*ESE? . . . 313
*ESR? . . . 313
*GMC? <*name*> . . . 313
*IDN? . . . 313
*LMC? . . . 313
*OPC . . . 314
*OPC? . . . 314
*PMC . . . 315

*RMC <*name*> 315
*RST 315
*SRE <*mask*> 316
*SRE? 316
*STB? 316
*TRG 316
*TST? 317
*WAI 320
Command Quick Reference 321

Appendix A. Specifications 329

Appendix B. Error Messages 359

Appendix C. Glossary 367

Appendix D. Wiring and Noise Reduction Methods 371
Separating Digital and Analog SCP Signals 371
Recommended Wiring and Noise Reduction Techniques 372
Wiring Checklist 372
VT1419A Guard Connections 373
Common Mode Voltage Limits 373
When to Make Shield Connections 373
Noise Due to Inadequate Card Grounding 373
VT1419A Noise Rejection 374
Normal Mode Noise (Enm) 374
Common Mode Noise (Ecm) 374
Keeping Common Mode Noise out of the Amplifier 374
Reducing Common Mode Rejection Using Tri-Filar Transformers 375

Appendix E. Generating User Defined Functions 377
Introduction 377
Haversine Example 378
Limitations 380

Index 381

Support Resources

Support resources for this product are available on the Internet and at VXI Technology customer support centers.

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Chapter 1
Getting Started

About This Chapter

This chapter will explain hardware configuration before installation in a VXIbus mainframe. By attending to each of these configuration items, the VT1419A won't have to be removed from its mainframe later. Chapter contents include:

- Configuring the VT1419A . . . . . page 15
- Instrument Drivers . . . . . page 23
- About Example Programs . . . . . page 23
- Verifying a Successful Configuration . . . . . page 23

Configuring the VT1419A

There are several aspects to configuring the module before installing it in a VXIbus mainframe. They are:

- Setting the Logical Address Switch . . . . . page 15
- Installing Signal Conditioning Plug-ons . . . . . page 16
- Disabling the Input Protect Feature . . . . . page 21
- Disabling Flash Memory Access . . . . . page 21

For most applications, **only the Logical Address switch need be changed and the SCPs installed in the mainframe prior to installation**. The other settings can be used as delivered.

Switch/Jumper	Setting
Logical Address Switch	208
Input Protect Jumper	Protected
Flash Memory Protect Jumper	PROG

NOTE

Setting the VXIbus Interrupt Level: the VT1419A uses a default VXIbus interrupt level of 1. The default setting is in effect at power-on and after a *RST command. The interrupt level can be changed by executing the DIAGnostic:INTerrupt[:LINe] command in the application program.

Setting the Logical Address Switch

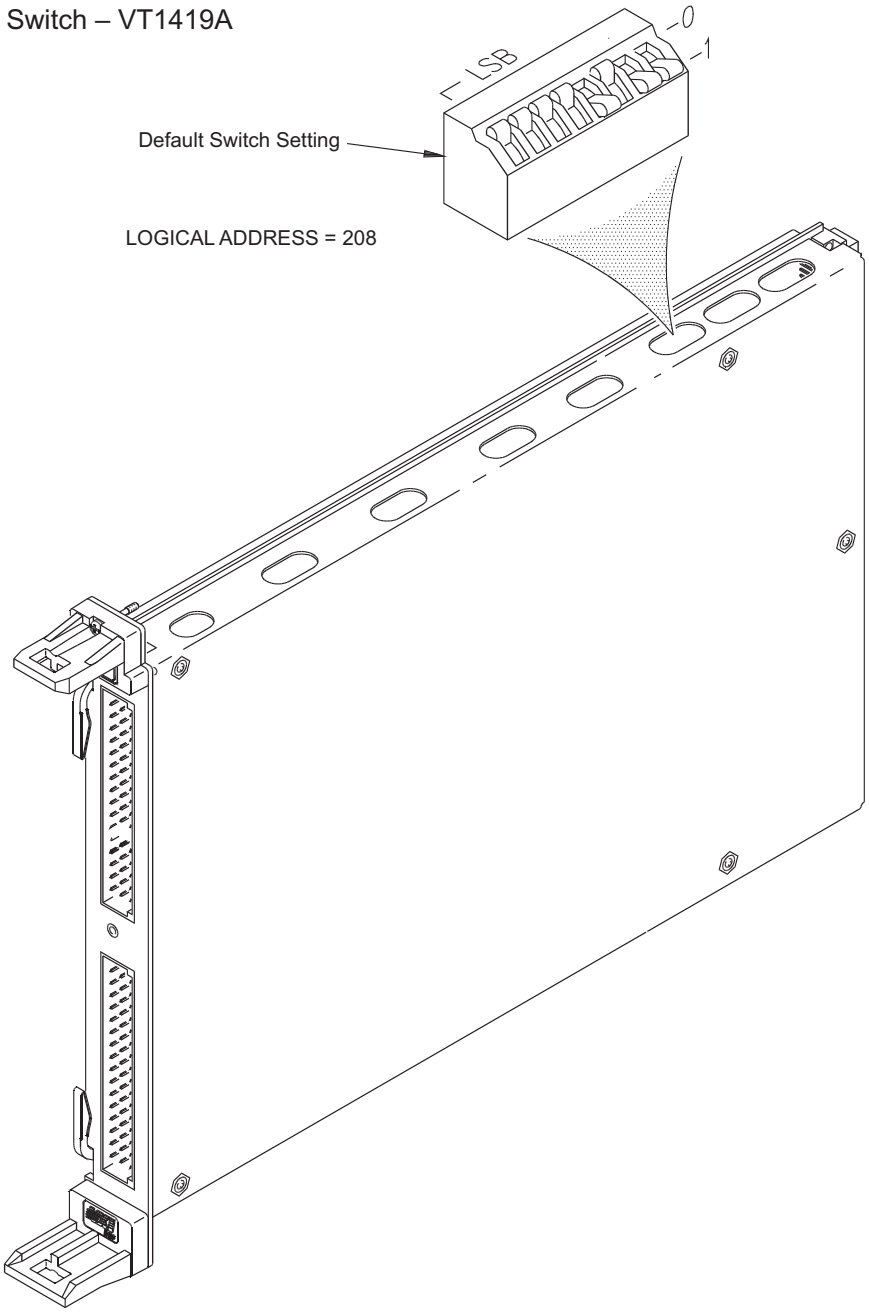
Follow the next figure and ignore any switch numbering printed on the Logical Address switch. When installing more than one VT1419A in a single VXIbus Mainframe, set each instrument to a different Logical Address.

Installing SCPs

The following illustrations show the steps used to install Signal Conditioning Plug-Ons (SCPs). The VT1419A supports only non-programmable analog input SCPs in positions 0 through 3. Any mix of SCP types can be installed in SCP positions 4 through 7.

CAUTION Use approved Static Discharge Safe handling procedures anytime the covers are removed from the VT1419A or are handling SCPs.

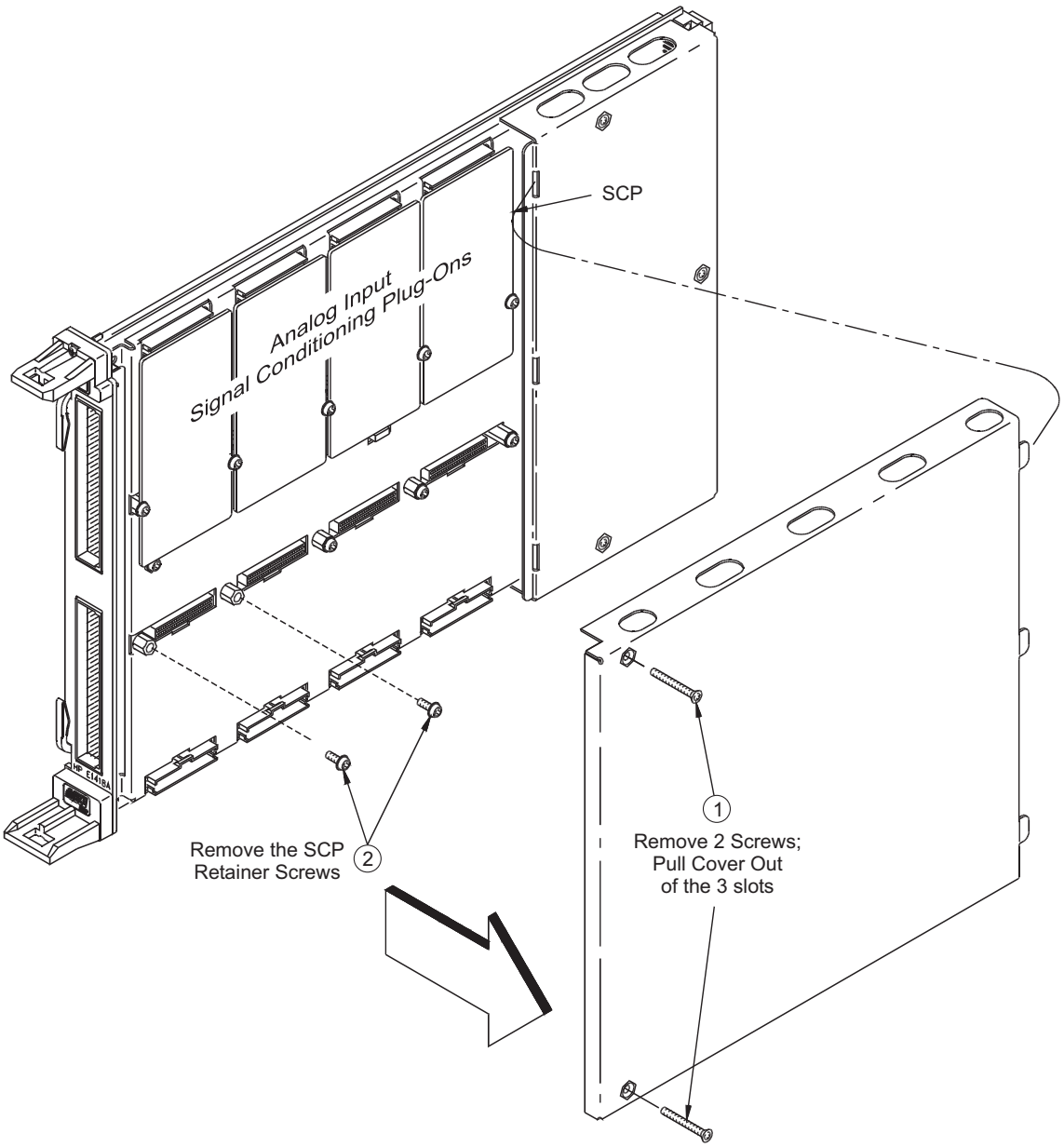
Setting Logical Address Switch – VT1419A



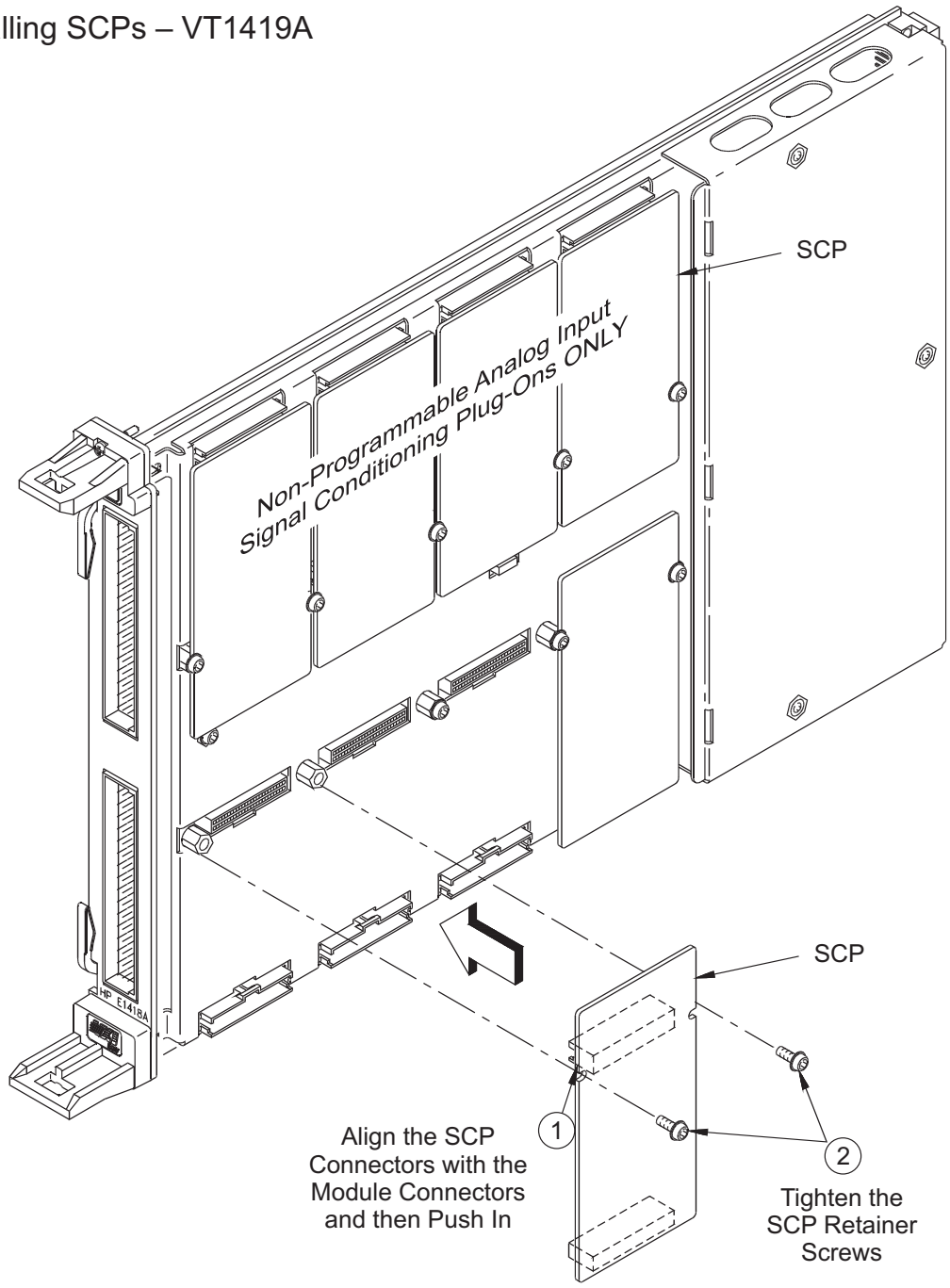
Note The only SCPs supported in SCP positions 0 through 3 are:

VT1501A	VT1513A
VT1502A	VT1514A
VT1508A	VT1515A
VT1509A	VT1516A
VT1512A	VT1517A

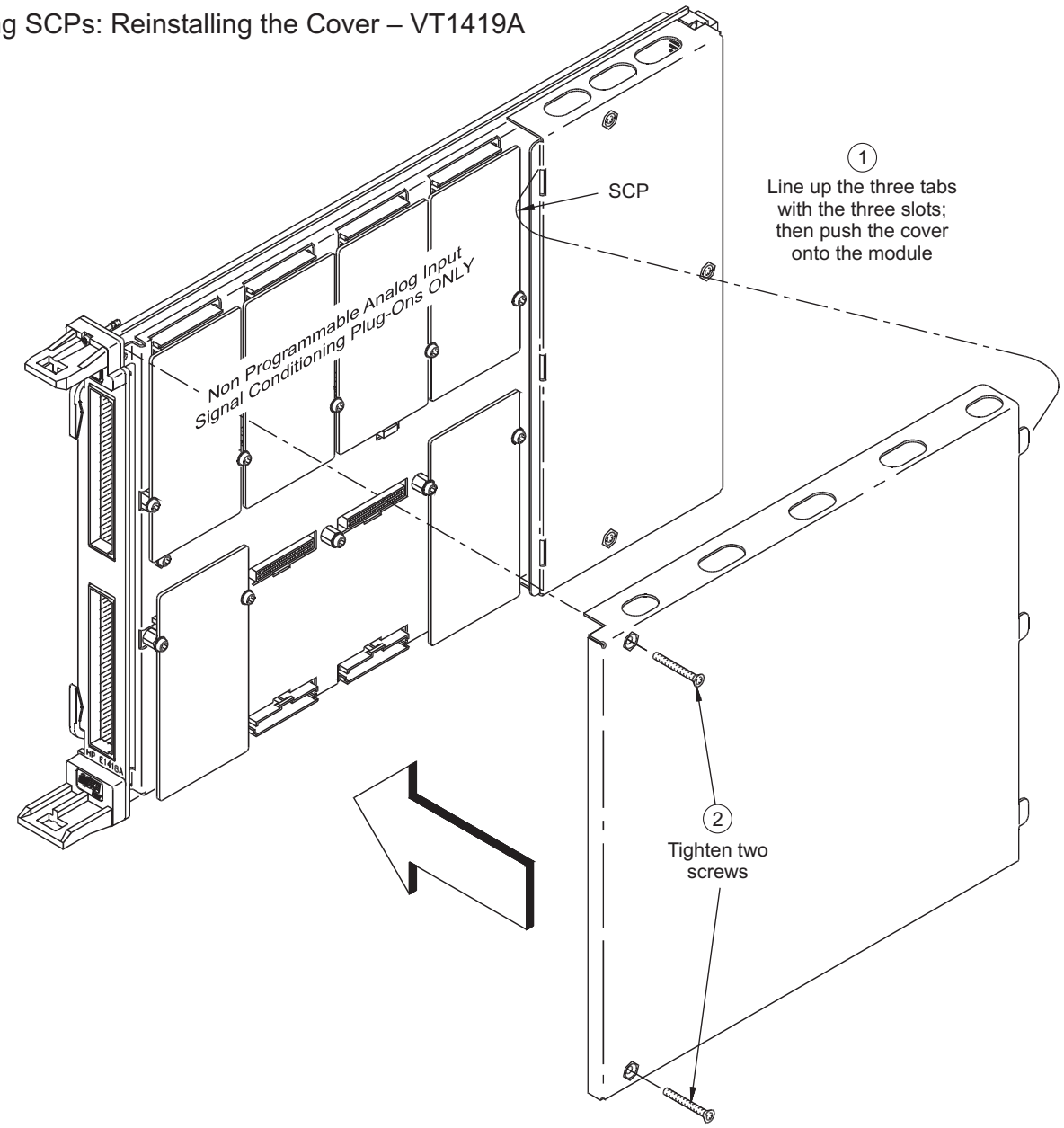
1 Installing SCPs: Removing the Cover – VT1419A



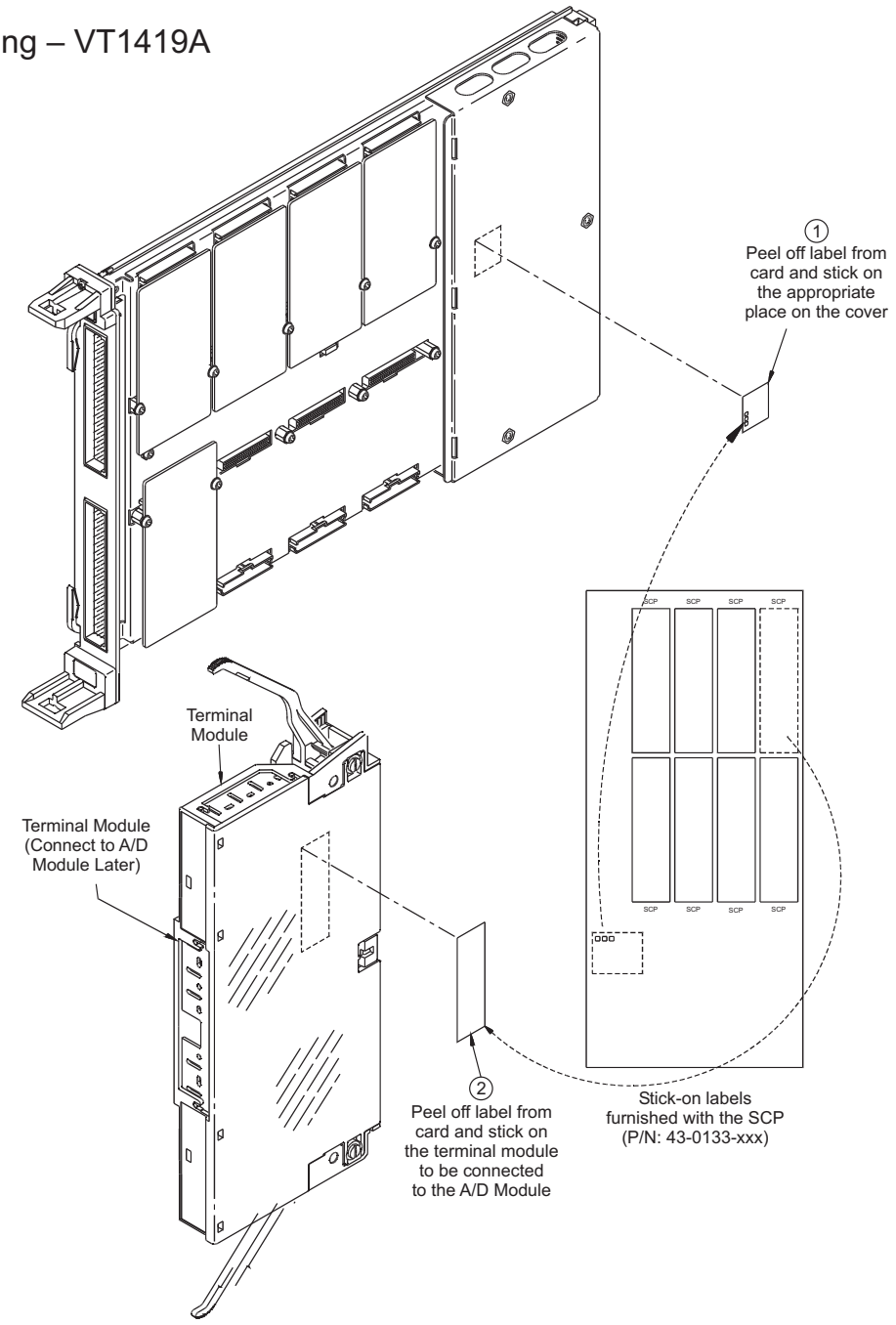
2 Installing SCPs – VT1419A



3 Installing SCPs: Reinstalling the Cover – VT1419A


SCP
1
Line up the three tabs with the three slots; then push the cover onto the module
Non Programmable Analog Input
Signal Conditioning Plug-Ons ONLY
2
Tighten two screws

4 Installing SCPs: Labeling – VT1419A



Disabling the Input Protect Feature (Optional)

Disabling the Input Protect feature voids the VT1419A's warranty. The Input Protect feature allows the VT1419A to open all channel input relays if any input's voltage exceeds ±19 volts (±6 volts for non-isolated digital I/O SCPs). This feature helps to protect the card's Signal Conditioning Plug-Ons, input multiplexer, ranging amplifier and A/D from destructive voltage levels. The level that trips the protection function has been set to provide a high probability of protection. The voltage level that is certain to cause damage is somewhat higher. **If, in an application, the importance of completing a measurement run outweighs the added risk of damage to the VT1419A, the input protect feature may be disabled.**

VOIDS WARRANTY

Disabling the Input Protection Feature voids the VT1419A's warranty.

To disable the Input Protection feature, locate and cut JM2202. Make a single cut in the jumper and bend the adjacent ends apart. See following illustration for location of JM2202.

Disabling Flash Memory Access (Optional)

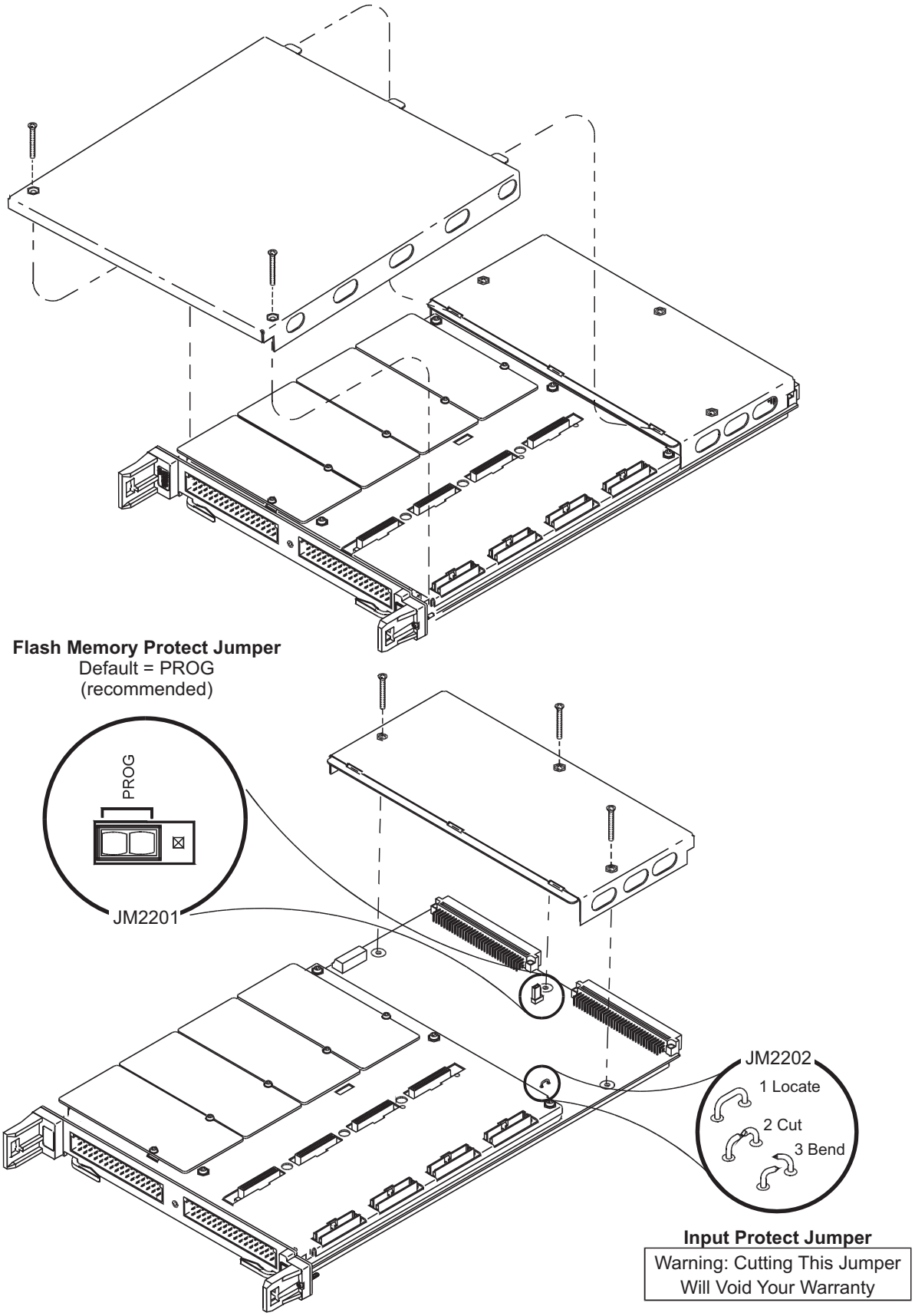
The Flash Memory Protect Jumper (JM2201) is shipped in the "PROG" position. It is recommended that the jumper be left in this position so that all of the calibration commands can function. Changing the jumper to the protect position prevents the following from being executed:

- The SCPI calibration command CAL:STORE ADC | TARE
- The register-based calibration commands STORECAL and STORETAR
- Any application that installs firmware-updates or makes any other modification to flash memory through the A24 window.

With the jumper in the "PROG" position, one or more VT1419As can be completely calibrated without being removed from the application system. A VT1419A calibrated in its working environment will, in general, be better calibrated than if it were calibrated separate from its application system.

The multimeter used during the periodic calibration cycle should be considered the calibration transfer standard. Provide the Calibration Organization control unauthorized access to its calibration constants. See the *VT1415A/VT1419A Service Manual* for complete information on VT1419A periodic calibration.

If access to the VT1419A's calibration constants must be limited, place JM2201 in the protected position and cover the shield retaining screws with calibration stickers. See following illustration for location of JM2201.


Flash Memory Protect Jumper
Default = PROG
(recommended)
PROG
JM2201
JM2202
1 Locate
2 Cut
3 Bend
Input Protect Jumper
Warning: Cutting This Jumper
Will Void Your Warranty

Instrument Drivers

The Agilent/HP E1405B/E1406A downloadable driver is supplied with the VT1419A on the "VXI*plug&play* Drivers & Product Manuals" CD-ROM and is also available through a VXI Customer and Sales Representative.

About Example Programs

Examples on CD

All example programs mentioned by file name in this manual are available on the "VXI*plug&play* Drivers & Product Manuals" CD supplied with the VT1419A. See the VEE program examples chapter, page 143 for specific location of files on the CD.

Example Command Sequences

Where programming concepts are discussed in this manual, the commands to send to the VT1419A are shown in the form of command sequences. These are not example programs because they are not written in any computer language. They are meant to show the VT1419A SCPI commands in the sequence they should be sent. Where necessary, these sequences include comments to describe program flow and control such as loop - end loop and if - end if. See the code sequence on page 84 for an example.

Verifying a Successful Configuration

Among the VEE example programs supplied with the VT1419A is a program (file name "*panl1419.vee*") that can be used to verify the VT1419A configuration and installation. When the "Front Panel" program starts, it communicates with the VT1419A and executes instructions to determine and display the installed SCP types. It also simulates a strip chart recorder so that input channels can be selected to monitor and display. "Buttons" are included that will run the VT1419A's self-test as well as well as perform an "auto-calibration." Self-test and Cal can take 3 to 15 minutes to complete depending upon the number and type of SCPs installed in the VT1419A.

Note

When the Agilent VEE program that communicates with the VT1419A is first loaded, it will display a dialog box asking for the GPIB address string to use.

Chapter 2
Field Wiring

About This Chapter

This chapter shows how to plan and connect field wiring to the VT1419A's Terminal Module. The chapter explains proper connection of analog signals to the VT1419A, both two-wire voltage type and four-wire resistance type measurements. Connections for other measurement types (e.g., strain using the Bridge Completion SCPs) refer to specific SCP manual in the "SCP Manuals" section. Chapter contents include:

- Planning Wiring Layout for the VT1419A . . . . . page 25
- Faceplate Connector Pin-Signal List . . . . . page 29
- Optional Terminal Modules . . . . . page 30
- Reference Temperature Sensing with the VT1419A . . . . . page 33
- Configuring the On-Board/Remote Reference Jumpers . . . . . page 34
- Preferred Measurement Connections . . . . . page 37
- Wiring and Attaching the Terminal Modules . . . . . page 39
- Attaching/Removing the Terminal Modules . . . . . page 41
- Adding Components to the Option 12 Terminal Module . . . . . page 43
- Option 11 Terminal Module Wiring Map . . . . . page 44
- Option 12 Terminal Module Wiring Map . . . . . page 45
- The Option A3F . . . . . page 46

Planning the Wiring Layout

To help plan the field wiring connections to the VT1419A, this section provides a high-level overview of the VT1419A's signal paths between the face plate connectors and the Control Processor (DSP). To eliminate any surprises after the system is wired, it also cover any configuration interdependencies or other limiting situations (there are very few with the VT1419A).

SCP Positions and Channel Numbers

The VT1419A has a fixed relationship between Signal Conditioning Plug-On positions and their channel assignments. See Figure 2-1 for this discussion. Each of the eight SCP positions can connect to eight channels. Each channel signal path consists of both a High and Low signal path (for differential analog signals). Some SCP models will connect to fewer of these eight channels and those left unconnected cannot be used for other purposes. The VT1533A Digital I/O SCP on the other hand will use each High and Low channel to provide 16 digital bits from a single SCP position.

SCP Types and Signal Paths

Different SCP types (analog sense, analog source, digital I/O) use different signal paths in the VT1419A. Each of these basic types will be discussed.

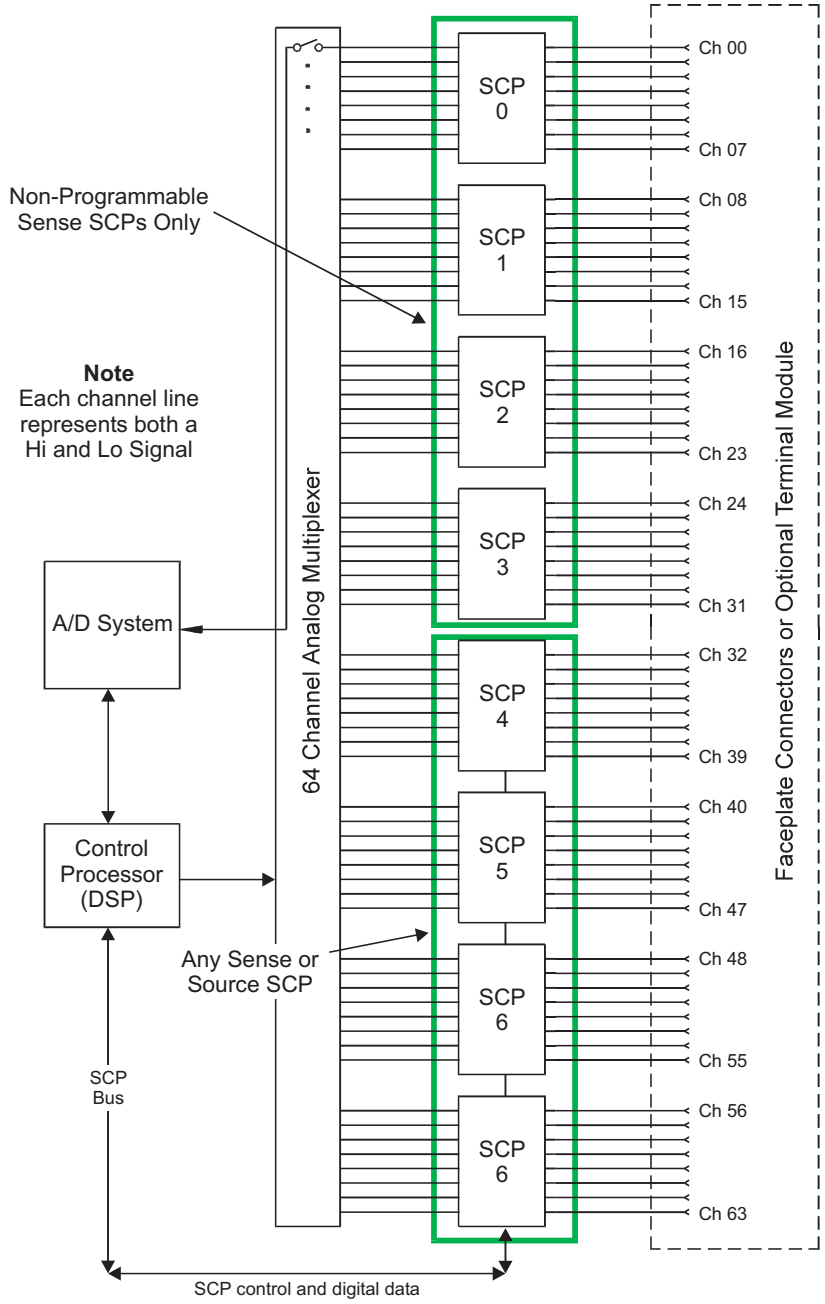


Figure 2-1: Channel Numbers at SCP Positions

Analog Sense SCPs

Analog sense SCPs connect signals at the faceplate connector and pass these signals (most with signal amplification and/or filtering) to the analog multiplexer and thus to the A/D for measurement. Here the primary signal path is along the analog Hi and Lo lines. The SCP Bus carries digital signals to control the programmable parameters on the VT1503A and VT1510A.

Analog Source SCPs

The primary signal path for analog source SCPs like the VT1505A Resistance Current Source, the VT1531A Voltage DAC and the VT1532A Current DAC is along the Hi and Lo lines from the SCP to the face plate connectors. The path from the SCP to the analog multiplexer can be used to read and verify the approximate output (although this path is not calibrated). The SCP Bus carries digital signals to these SCPs to control their output levels.

Combined Analog Source and Sense SCPs

The VT1506A, VT1507A, and VT1511A Strain Completion SCPs as well as the VT1518A Resistance Measurement SCP combine analog sense and analog sources in a single SCP. With these SCPs, some channels will be used to sense measurement values while others will be used to carry analog excitation voltage or current. Again the SCP Bus carries digital signals to control SCP source level and/or measurement configuration.

Digital SCPs

With digital SCPs, the signal path to and from the face plate connectors and the SCP is as always, the Hi and Lo signal paths. The VT1534A, VT1536A, and VT1538A digital SCPs provide one digital bit per Hi and Lo pair while the VT1533A provides 16 digital bits from a single SCP position by connecting 8 bits to the channel Hi lines and another 8 bits to the channel Lo lines. With digital SCPs, the SCP Bus is the only data path between the Control Processor and the SCP for both data and configuration control.

Pairing Sense and Source SCPs for Resistance Measurements

Resistance measurements and resistance-temperature measurements require supplying an excitation current to the resistive element to be measured. With the VT1419A, two channels are required for each resistance to be measured. Resistance is always measured in a Four-Wire configuration. The VT1505A Current Source SCP provides eight excitation supplies that can be paired with any available analog sense channels to complete the measurement circuit. The VT1518A Resistance Measurement SCP provides four excitation supplies and four amplified sense channels on a single SCP. In either case, the source and sense channels must be paired together to make the resistance measurement. Figure 2-2 illustrates an example of “pairing” source SCP channels with sense SCP channels.

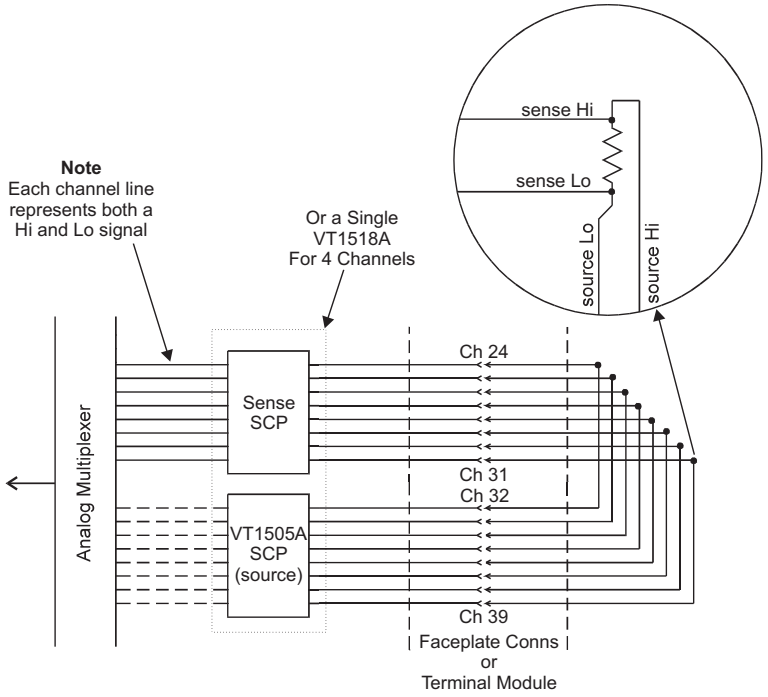


Figure 2-2: Pairing Source and Sense SCP Channels

Planning for Thermocouple Measurements

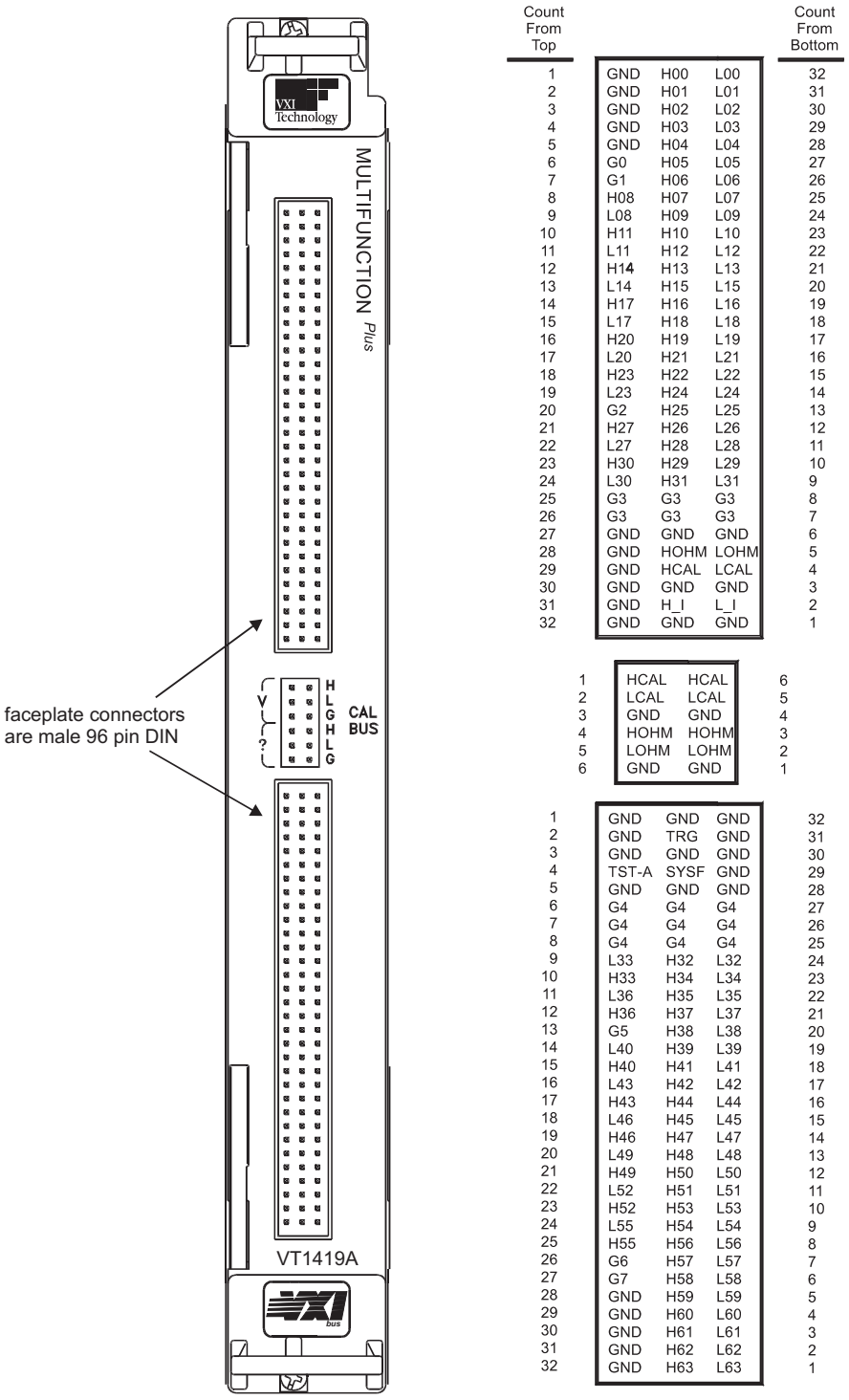
Thermocouples and the thermocouple reference temperature sensor can be wired to any of the VT1419A's channels. When the scan list is executed, make sure that the reference temperature sensor is specified in the channel sequence before any of the associated thermocouple channels (see the [SENSe:]REF:CHAN command).

External wiring and connections to the VT1419A are made using the Terminal Module (see page 39).

NOTE The isothermal reference temperature measurement made by a VT1419A applies only to thermocouple measurements made by that instrument and through the terminal blocks associated with the reference temperature sensor (for increased isothermal reference accuracy the VT1586A Rack Mount Terminal Panel has three reference temperature thermistors). In systems with multiple VT1419As, each instrument must make its own reference measurements. The reference measurement made by one VT1419A can not be used to compensate thermocouple measurements made by another VT1419A.

Faceplate Connector Pin-Signal Lists

Figure 2-3 shows the Faceplate Connector Pin Signal List for the VT1419A.



Count From Top				Count From Bottom
1	GND	H00	L00	32
2	GND	H01	L01	31
3	GND	H02	L02	30
4	GND	H03	L03	29
5	GND	H04	L04	28
6	G0	H05	L05	27
7	G1	H06	L06	26
8	H08	H07	L07	25
9	L08	H09	L09	24
10	H11	H10	L10	23
11	L11	H12	L12	22
12	H14	H13	L13	21
13	L14	H15	L15	20
14	H17	H16	L16	19
15	L17	H18	L18	18
16	H20	H19	L19	17
17	L20	H21	L21	16
18	H23	H22	L22	15
19	L23	H24	L24	14
20	G2	H25	L25	13
21	H27	H26	L26	12
22	L27	H28	L28	11
23	H30	H29	L29	10
24	L30	H31	L31	9
25	G3	G3	G3	8
26	G3	G3	G3	7
27	GND	GND	GND	6
28	GND	HOHM	LOHM	5
29	GND	HCAL	LCAL	4
30	GND	GND	GND	3
31	GND	H_I	L_I	2
32	GND	GND	GND	1

1	HCAL	HCAL	6
2	LCAL	LCAL	5
3	GND	GND	4
4	HOHM	HOHM	3
5	LOHM	LOHM	2
6	GND	GND	1

1	GND	GND	GND	32
2	GND	TRG	GND	31
3	GND	GND	GND	30
4	TST-A	SYSF	GND	29
5	GND	GND	GND	28
6	G4	G4	G4	27
7	G4	G4	G4	26
8	G4	G4	G4	25
9	L33	H32	L32	24
10	H33	H34	L34	23
11	L36	H35	L35	22
12	H36	H37	L37	21
13	G5	H38	L38	20
14	L40	H39	L39	19
15	H40	H41	L41	18
16	L43	H42	L42	17
17	H43	H44	L44	16
18	L46	H45	L45	15
19	H46	H47	L47	14
20	L49	H48	L48	13
21	H49	H50	L50	12
22	L52	H51	L51	11
23	H52	H53	L53	10
24	L55	H54	L54	9
25	H55	H56	L56	8
26	G6	H57	L57	7
27	G7	H58	L58	6
28	GND	H59	L59	5
29	GND	H60	L60	4
30	GND	H61	L61	3
31	GND	H62	L62	2
32	GND	H63	L63	1

Figure 2-3: VT1419A Faceplate Connector Pin Signals

Optional Terminal Modules

The VT1419A Option 11 Terminal Module has screw type terminal blocks. The VT1419A Option 12 Terminal Module has spring clamp type terminal blocks. Both of these Terminal Modules provide:

- Terminal block connections to field wiring.
- Strain relief for the wiring bundle.
- Reference junction temperature sensing for thermocouple measurements.

The VT1419A Option A3F Terminal Module is available to interface the VT1419A to a VT1586A rack mount terminal panel (see page 46).

The SCPs and Terminal Module Connections

The same Terminal is used for all field wiring regardless of which Signal Conditioning Plug-On (SCP) is used. Each SCP includes a set of labels to map that SCP's channels to the Terminal Module's terminal blocks. See step 4 in "Installing Signal Conditioning Plug-Ons" in Chapter 1 page 20 for VT1419A Terminal Modules.

Note

The SCPs VT1531A through VT1537A do not include wiring labels for the Option 11 terminal module. For these SCPs use the connection tables in the SCP's manual along with the Option 11 wiring map on page 44.

Option 11 Terminal Module Layout

Figure 2-4 shows the VT1419A-011 Screw Terminal Module feature and connector locations.

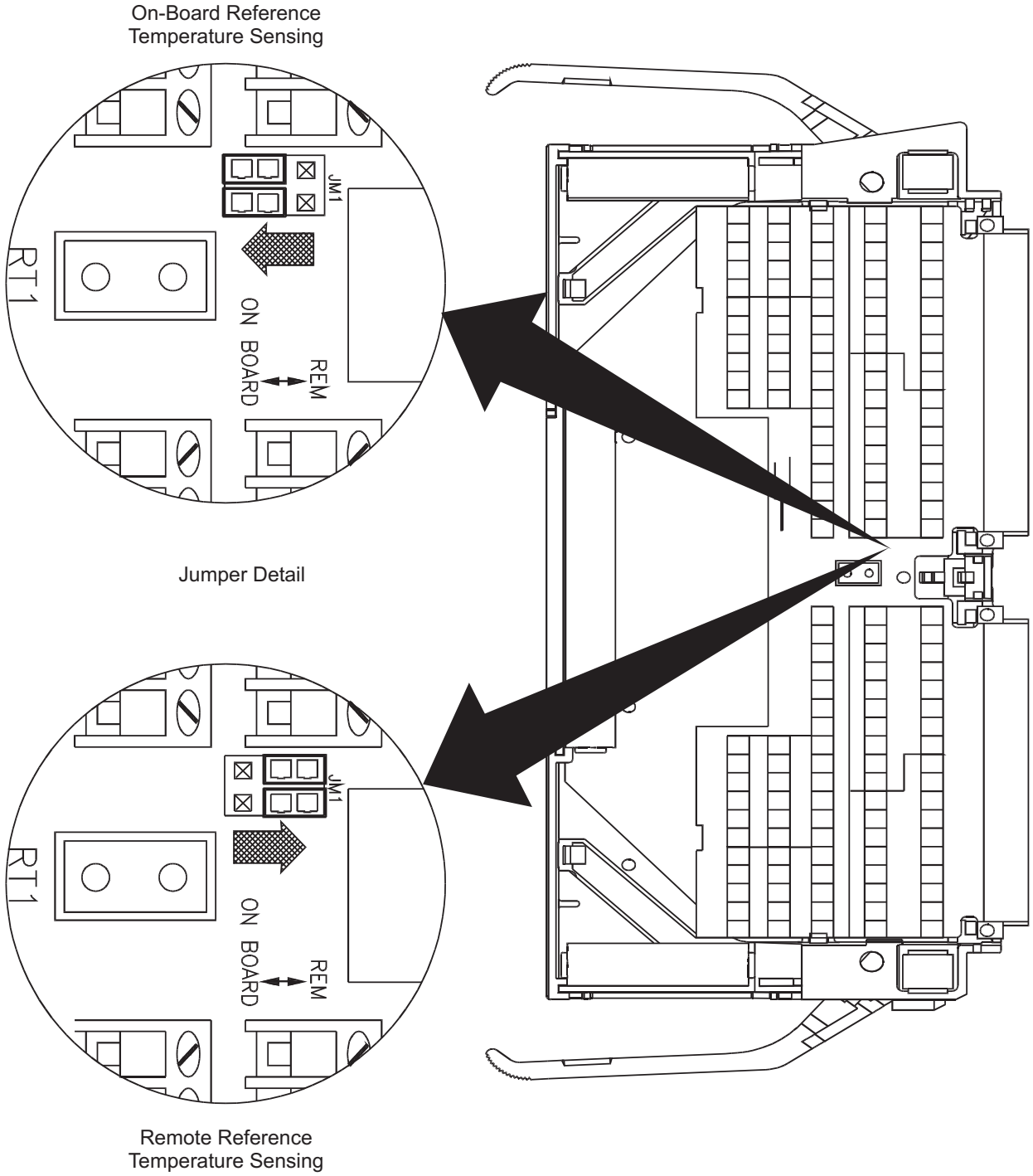


Figure 2-4: The Option 11 Screw Terminal Module

Option 12 Terminal Module Layout

Figure 2-5 shows the VT1419A-012 Spring Terminal Module features and connector locations.

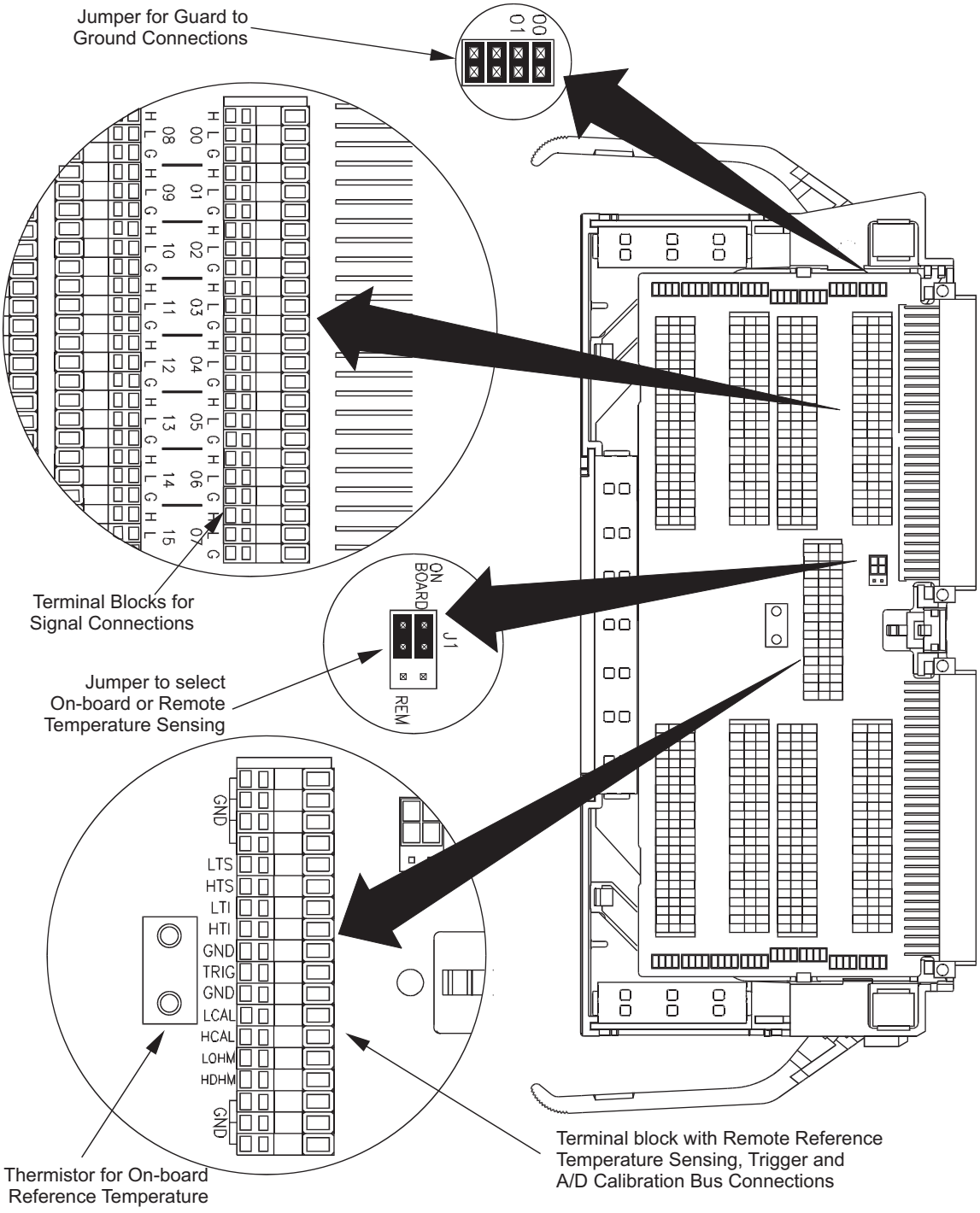


Figure 2-5: The Option 12 Spring Terminal Module

Reference Temperature Sensing with the VT1419A

The Terminal Modules provide an on-board thermistor for sensing isothermal reference temperature of the terminal blocks. Also provided is a jumper set (JM1 in Figures 2-5 and 2-4) to route the VT1419A's on-board current source to a thermistor or RTD on a remote isothermal reference block. Figures 2-6 and 2-7 show connections for both local and remote sensing.

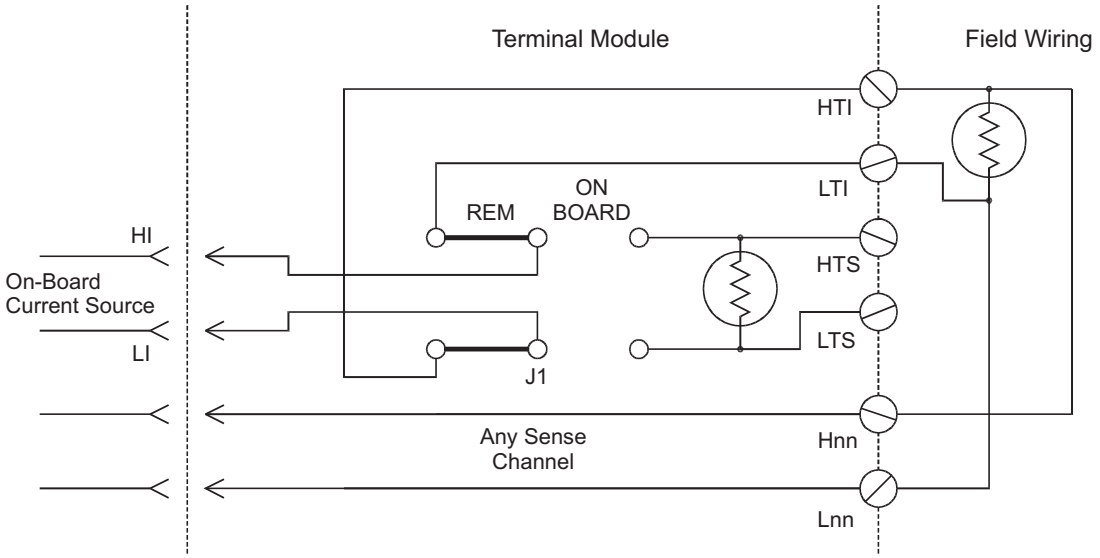


Figure 2-6: Remote Thermistor or RTD Connections

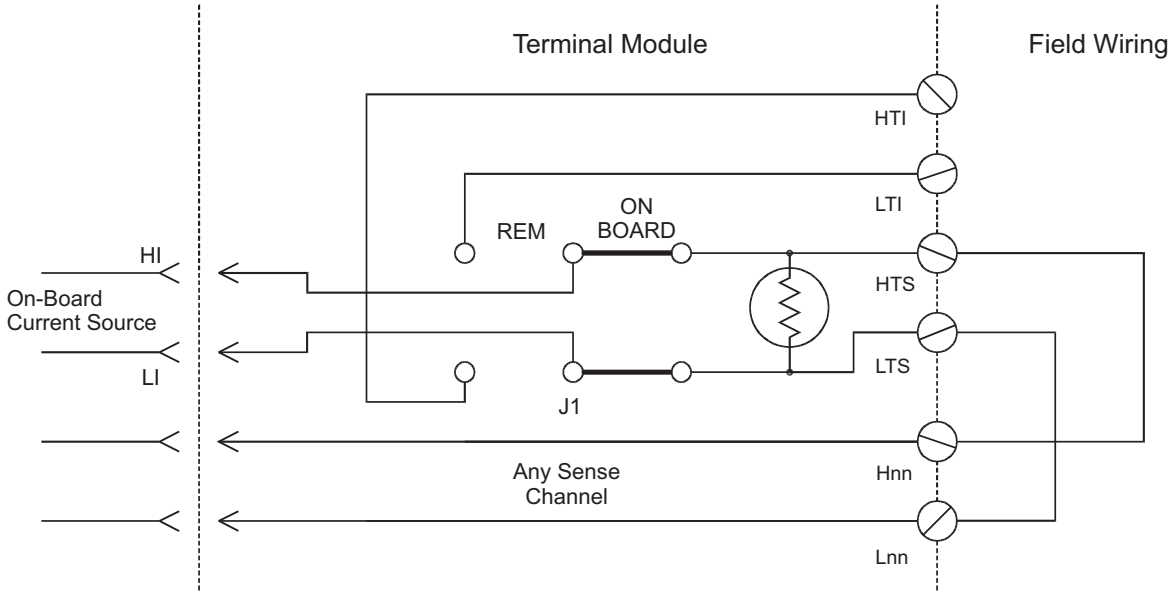
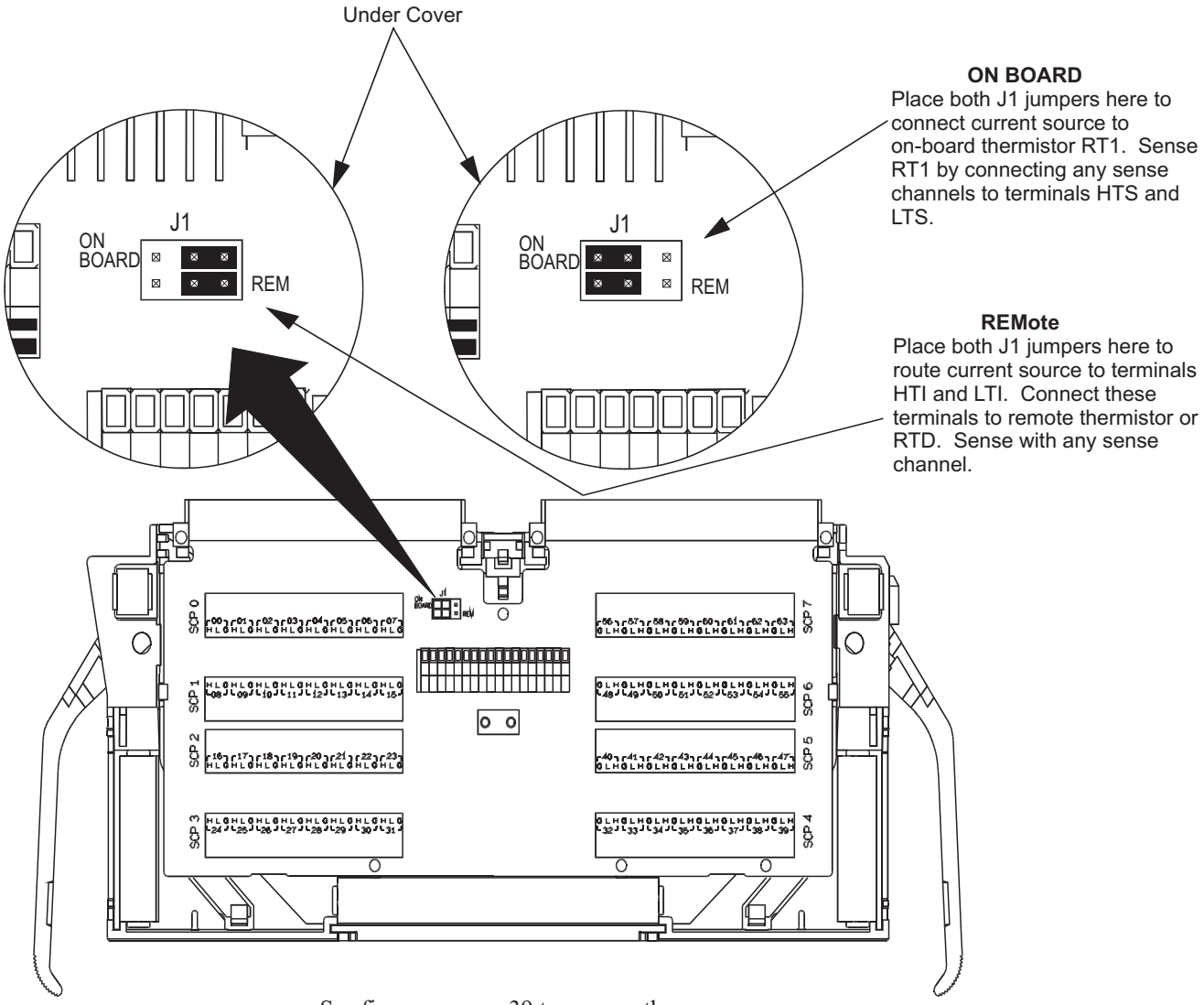


Figure 2-7: On-Board Thermistor Connections

Configuring the On-Board/Remote Reference Jumpers

Figure 2-8 shows how to set the Option 12's jumpers for on-board and remote thermocouple reference temperature measurement. Figure 2-2 shows the jumpers on the Option 11 Terminal Module. The Thermistor is used for reference junction temperature sensing for thermocouple measurements.


Under Cover
ON BOARD
Place both J1 jumpers here to connect current source to on-board thermistor RT1. Sense RT1 by connecting any sense channels to terminals HTS and LTS.
REMote
Place both J1 jumpers here to route current source to terminals HTI and LTI. Connect these terminals to remote thermistor or RTD. Sense with any sense channel.
J1
ON BOARD
REM
J1
ON BOARD
REM
SCP 0
SCP 1
SCP 2
SCP 3
SCP 4
SCP 5
SCP 6
SCP 7

See figure on page 39 to remove the cover

Figure 2-8: Temperature Sensing for VT1419A Terminal Module

Terminal Module Considerations for Thermocouple Measurements

The isothermal characteristics of the Terminal Modules are crucial for good TC readings and can be affected by any of the following factors:

1. The clear plastic cover must be on the Terminal Module.
2. The thin white Mylar thermal barrier must be inserted over the Terminal Module connector (Option 12 only). This prevents airflow from the VT1419A into the Terminal Module.
3. The Terminal Module must also be in a fairly stable temperature environment and it is best to minimize the temperature gradient between the VT1419A and the Terminal Module.
4. The VXI mainframe cooling fan filters must be clean and there should be as much clear space in front of the fan intakes as possible.
5. Recirculating warm air inside a closed rack cabinet can cause a problem if the Terminal Module is suspended into ambient air that is significantly warmer or cooler. If the mainframe recess is mounted in a rack with both front and rear doors, closing both doors helps keep the entire VT1419A at a uniform temperature. If there is no front door, try opening the back door to allow the mainframe to cool to the temperature of the Terminal Module.
6. VXI Technology recommends that the cooling fan switch on the back of the of an Agilent/HP E1401 Mainframe is in the “High” position. The normal variable speed cooling fan control can make the internal VT1419A module temperature cycle up and down, which affects the amplifiers with these microvolt-level signals.

Preferred Measurement Connections

IMPORTANT!

For any A/D Module to scan channels at high speeds, it must use a very short sample period (< 10 μs for the VT1419A). If significant normal mode noise is presented to its inputs, that noise will be part of the measurement. To make quiet, accurate measurements in electrically noisy environments, use properly connected shielded wiring between the A/D and the device under test. Figure 2-9 shows recommended connections for powered transducers, thermocouples, and resistance transducers. (See Appendix D for more information on Wiring Techniques).

HINTS

1. Try to install Analog SCPs relative to Digital I/O as shown in "Separating Digital and Analog Signals" in Appendix D.
2. Use individually shielded, twisted-pair wiring for each channel.
3. Connect the shield of each wiring pair to the corresponding Guard (G) terminal on the Terminal Module (see Figure 2-10 for schematic of Guard to Ground circuitry on the Terminal Module).
4. The Terminal Module is shipped with the Ground-to-Guard (GND-GRD) shorting jumper installed for each channel. These may be left installed or removed (see Figure 2-10 to remove the jumper), dependent on the following conditions:
   a. **Grounded Transducer with shield connected to ground at the transducer:** Low frequency ground loops (dc and/or 50/60 Hz) can result if the shield is also grounded at the Terminal Module end. To prevent this, remove the GND-GRD jumper for that channel (Figure 2-9 A/C).
   b. **Floating Transducer with shield connected to the transducer at the source:** In this case, the best performance will most likely be achieved by leaving the GND-GRD jumper in place (Figure 2-9 B/D).
5. In general, the GND-GRD jumper can be left in place unless it is necessary to remove to break low frequency (below 1 kHz) ground loops.
6. Use good quality foil or braided shield signal cable.
7. Route signal leads as far as possible from the sources of greatest noise.
8. In general, don't connect Hi or Lo to Guard or Ground at the VT1419A.
9. It is best if there is a dc path somewhere in the system from Hi or Lo to Guard/Ground.
10. The impedance from Hi to Guard/Ground should be the same as from Lo to Guard/Ground (balanced).
11. Since each system is different, don't be afraid to experiment using the suggestions presented here until an acceptable noise level is found.

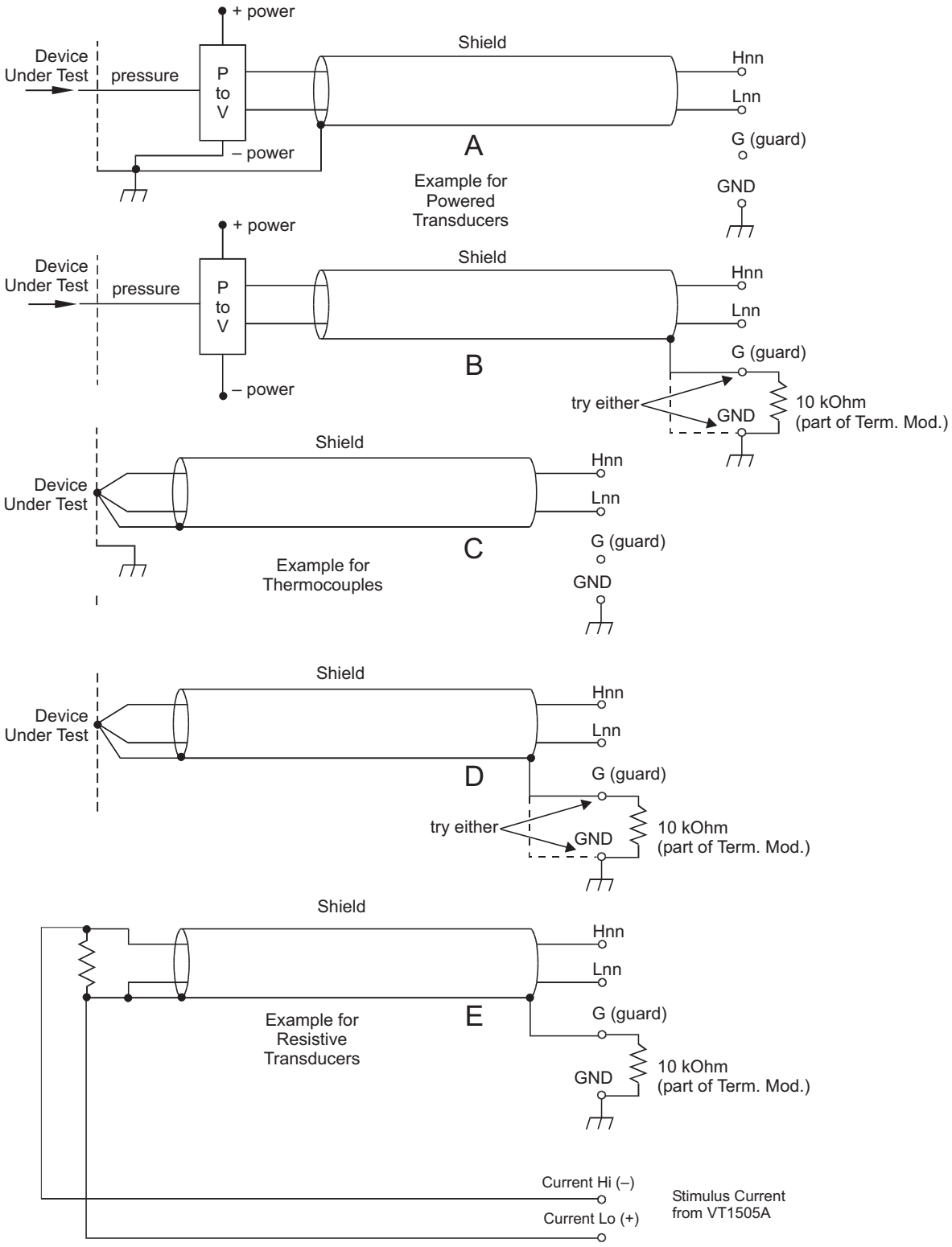


Figure 2-9: Preferred Signal Connections

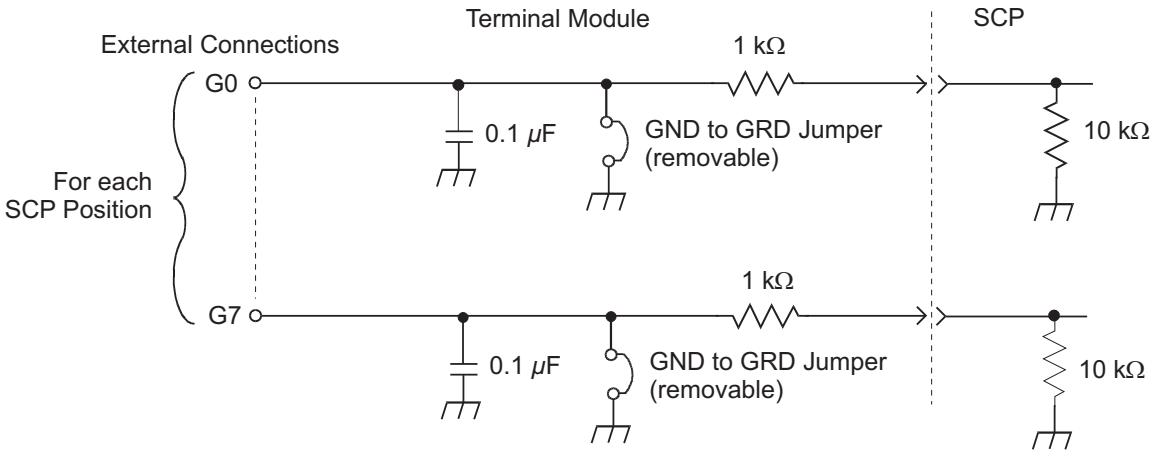


Figure 2-10: GRD/GND Circuitry Opt. 12 Terminal Module

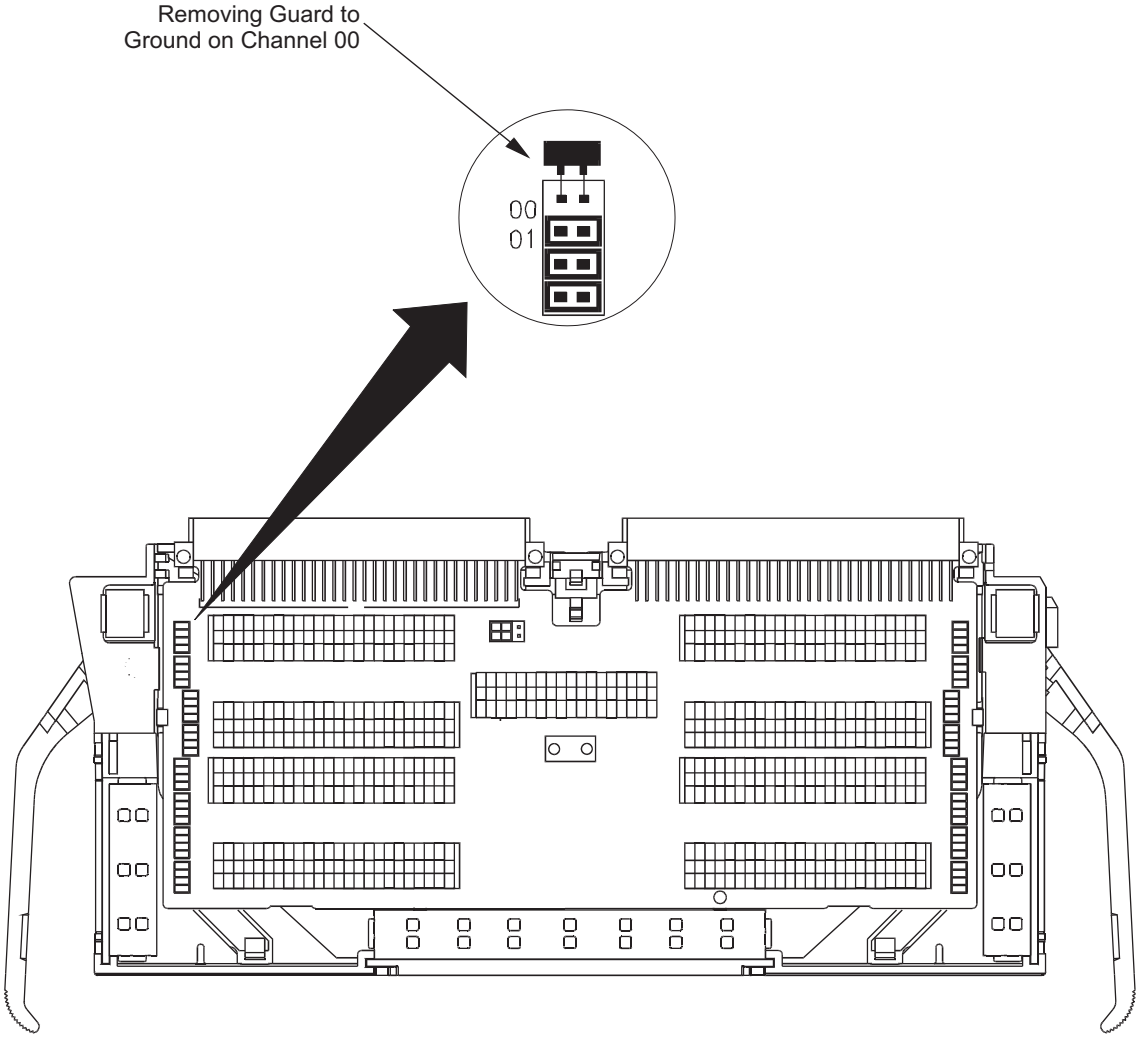


Figure 2-11: Grounding Option 12 Guard Terminals

Wiring and Attaching the Terminal Module

Figures 2-12 and 2-13 show how to open, wire and attach the terminal module to a VT1419A.

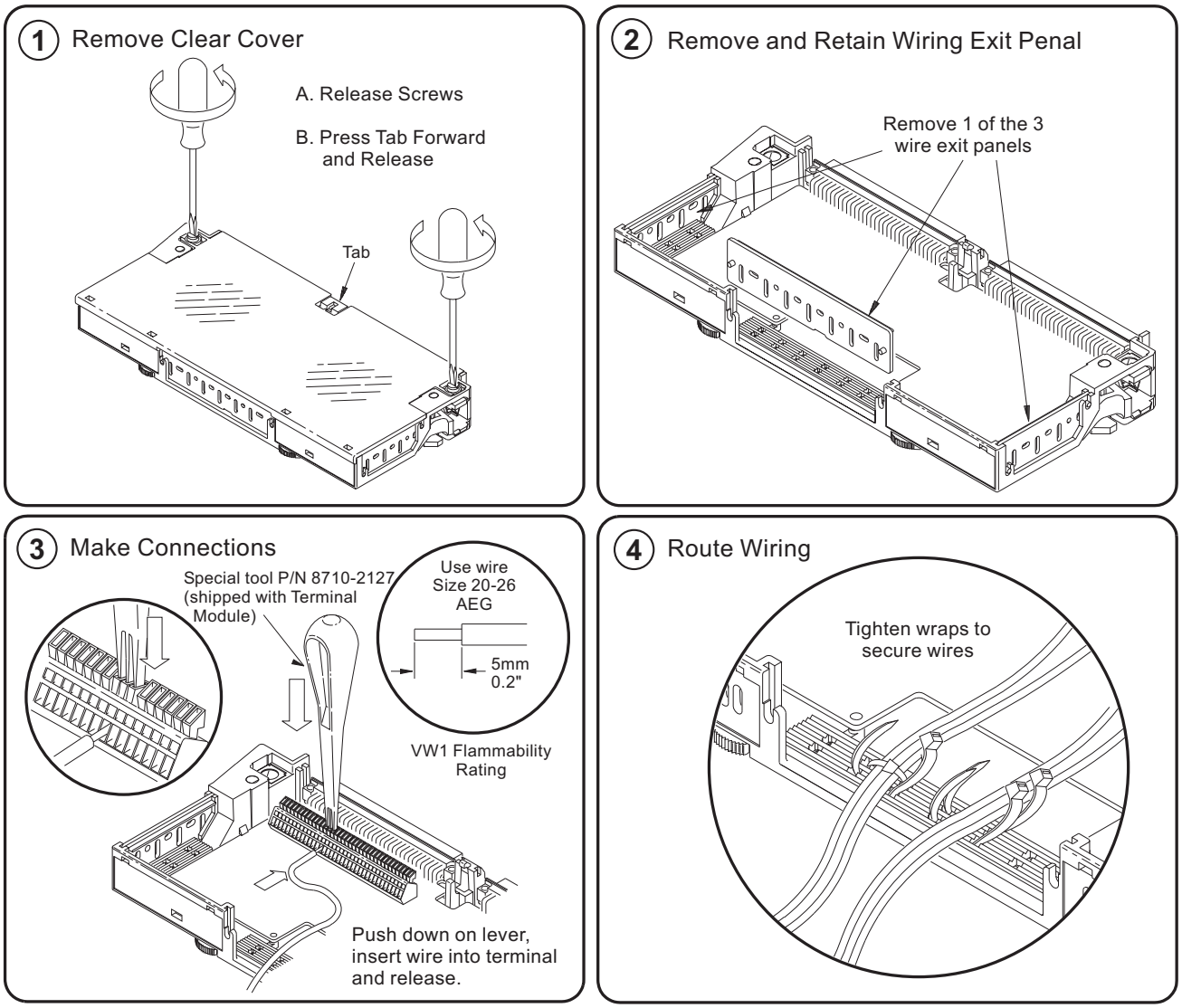

1 Remove Clear Cover
A. Release Screws
B. Press Tab Forward and Release
Tab
2 Remove and Retain Wiring Exit Penal
Remove 1 of the 3 wire exit panels
3 Make Connections
Special tool P/N 8710-2127 (shipped with Terminal Module)
Use wire Size 20-26 AEG
5mm 0.2"
VW1 Flammability Rating
Push down on lever, insert wire into terminal and release.
4 Route Wiring
Tighten wraps to secure wires

Figure 2-12: Wiring and Connecting the VT1419A Terminal Module

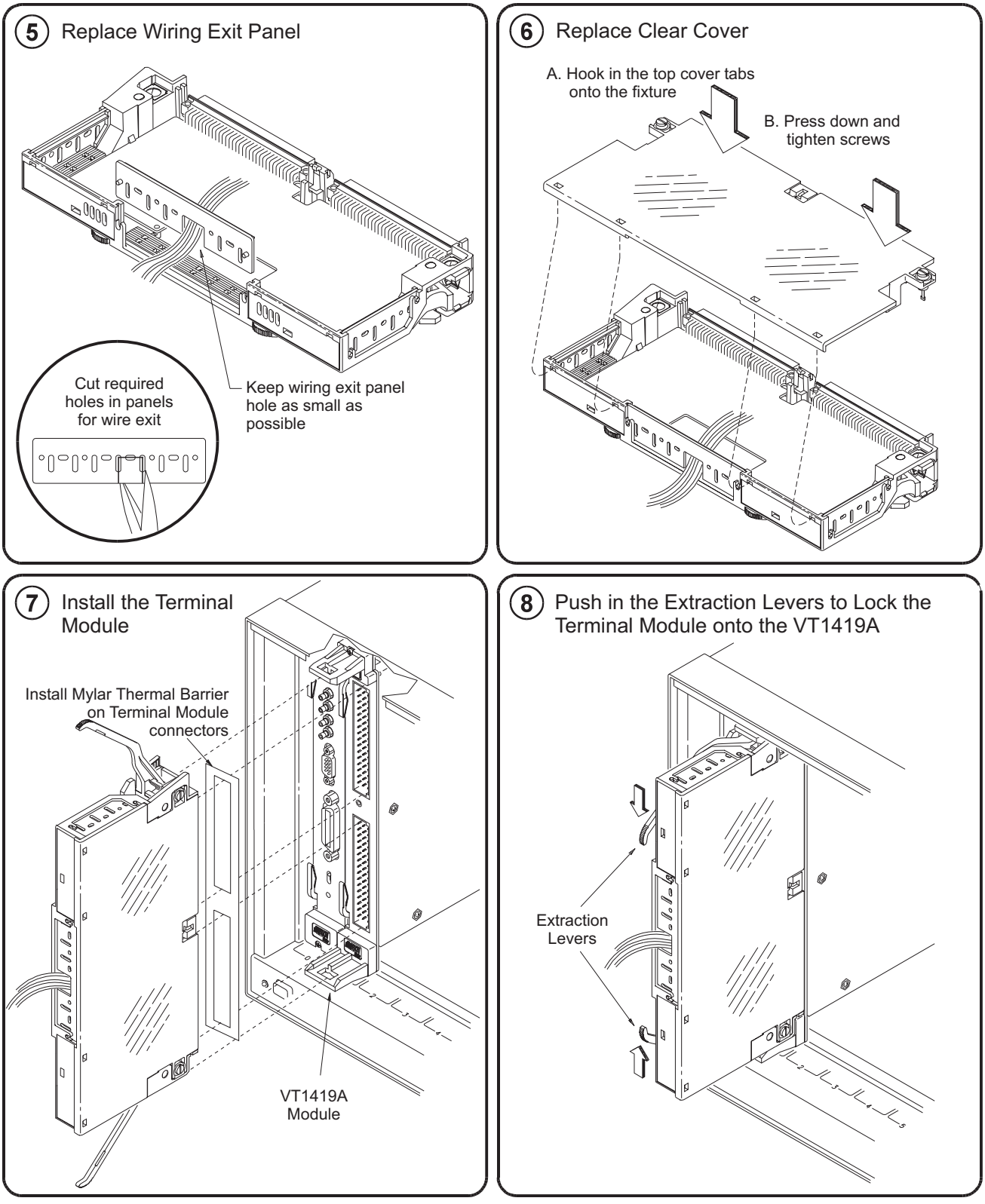

5 Replace Wiring Exit Panel
Cut required holes in panels for wire exit
Keep wiring exit panel hole as small as possible
6 Replace Clear Cover
A. Hook in the top cover tabs onto the fixture
B. Press down and tighten screws
7 Install the Terminal Module
Install Mylar Thermal Barrier on Terminal Module connectors
VT1419A Module
8 Push in the Extraction Levers to Lock the Terminal Module onto the VT1419A
Extraction Levers

Figure 2-13: Wiring and Connecting the VT1419A Terminal Module (Cont.)

Attaching/Removing the VT1419A Terminal Module

Figure 2-14 shows how to attach the terminal module to the VT1419A and Figure 2-15 shows how to remove it.

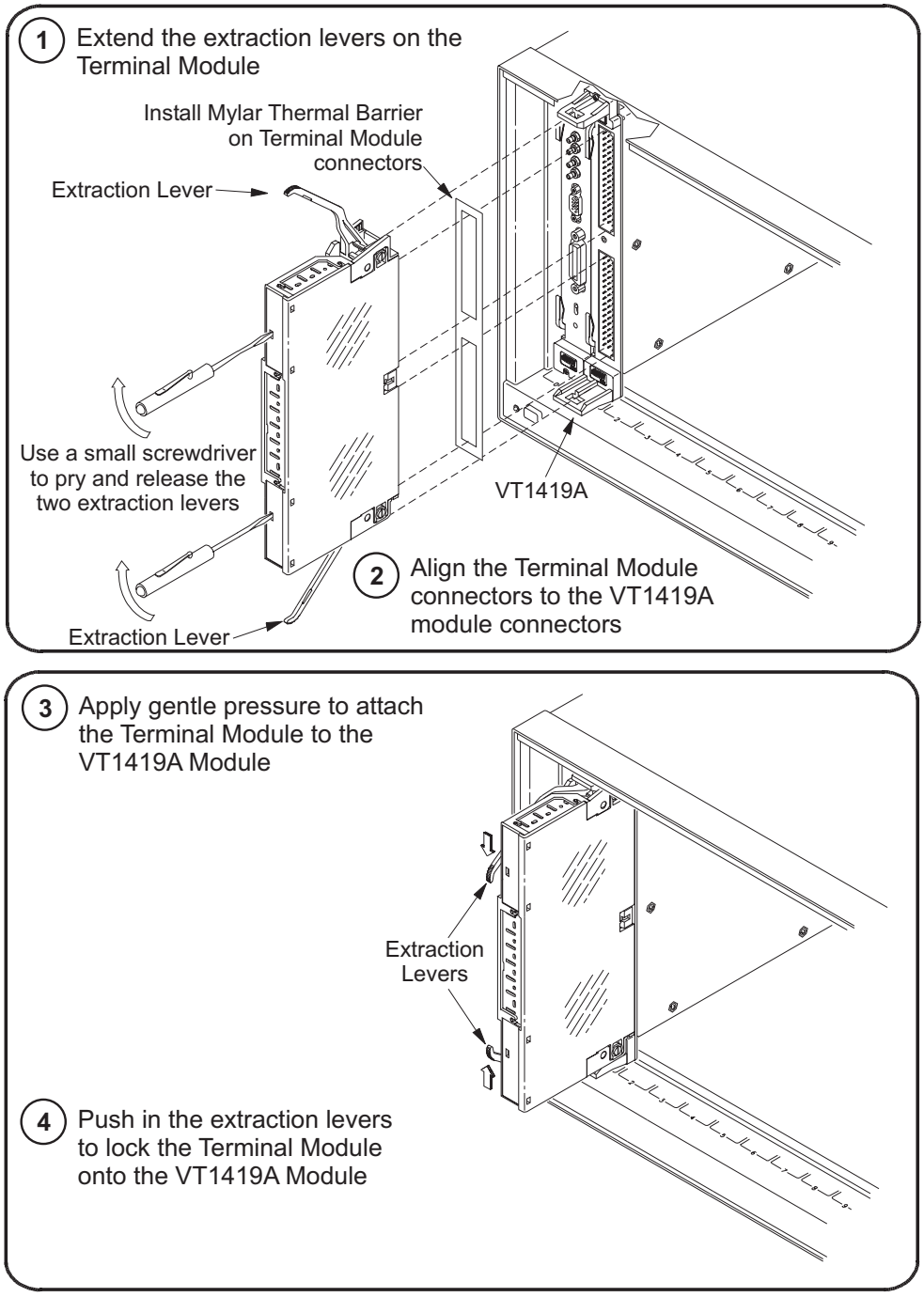

1
Extend the extraction levers on the Terminal Module
Install Mylar Thermal Barrier on Terminal Module connectors
Extraction Lever
Use a small screwdriver to pry and release the two extraction levers
VT1419A
2
Align the Terminal Module connectors to the VT1419A module connectors
Extraction Lever
3
Apply gentle pressure to attach the Terminal Module to the VT1419A Module
Extraction Levers
4
Push in the extraction levers to lock the Terminal Module onto the VT1419A Module

Figure 2-14: Attaching the VT1419A Terminal Module

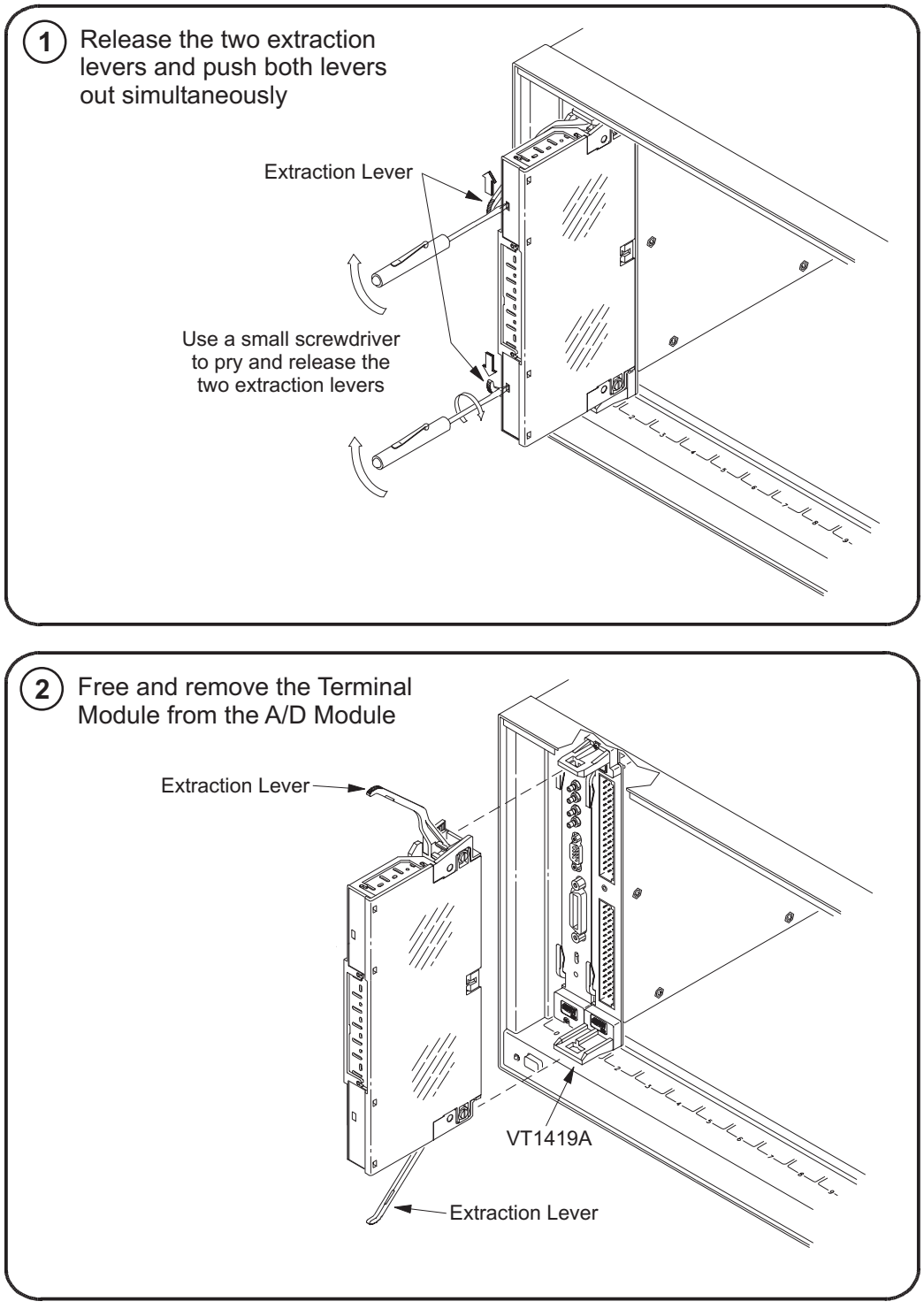

1
Release the two extraction levers and push both levers out simultaneously
Extraction Lever
Use a small screwdriver to pry and release the two extraction levers
2
Free and remove the Terminal Module from the A/D Module
Extraction Lever
VT1419A
Extraction Lever

Figure 2-15: Removing the VT1419A Terminal Module

Adding Components to the Option 12 Terminal Module

The back of the terminal module PCB (printed circuit board) provides surface mount pads which can be used to add serial and parallel components to any channel's signal path. Figure 2-16 shows additional component locator information (see the schematic and pad layout information on the back of the terminal module PCB). Figure 2-17 shows some usage example schematics.

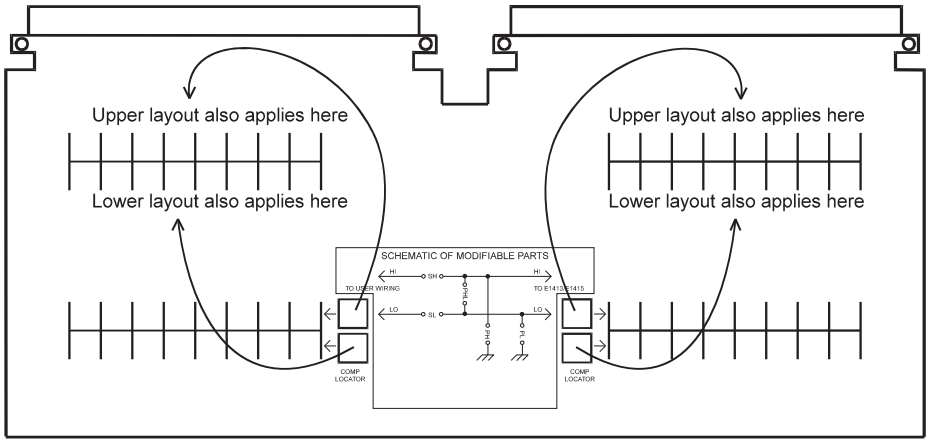
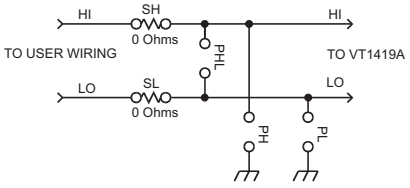
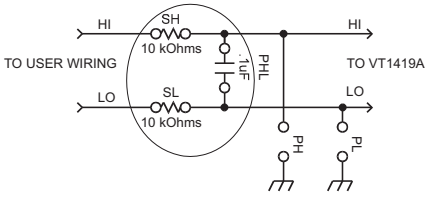


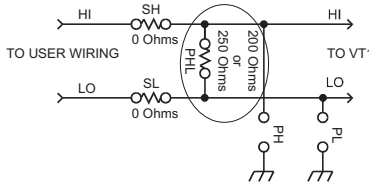
Figure 2-16 : Additional Component Location Information



Default Circuit



Normal Mode Low-Pass Filter Circuit



4 - 20 mA NOTE: Input must not exceed common mode limits (usually ±16 Volts unless attenuated with a VT1513A)

4 to 20 mA Sense
5 V Full Scale with 250 Ohm (must use 16 Volt range)
4 V Full Scale with 200 Ohm (can use 4 Volt range for better resolution)

Figure 2-17: Series & Parallel Component Examples

Option 11 Terminal Module Wiring Map

Figure 2-18 shows the Terminal Module map for the VT1419A.

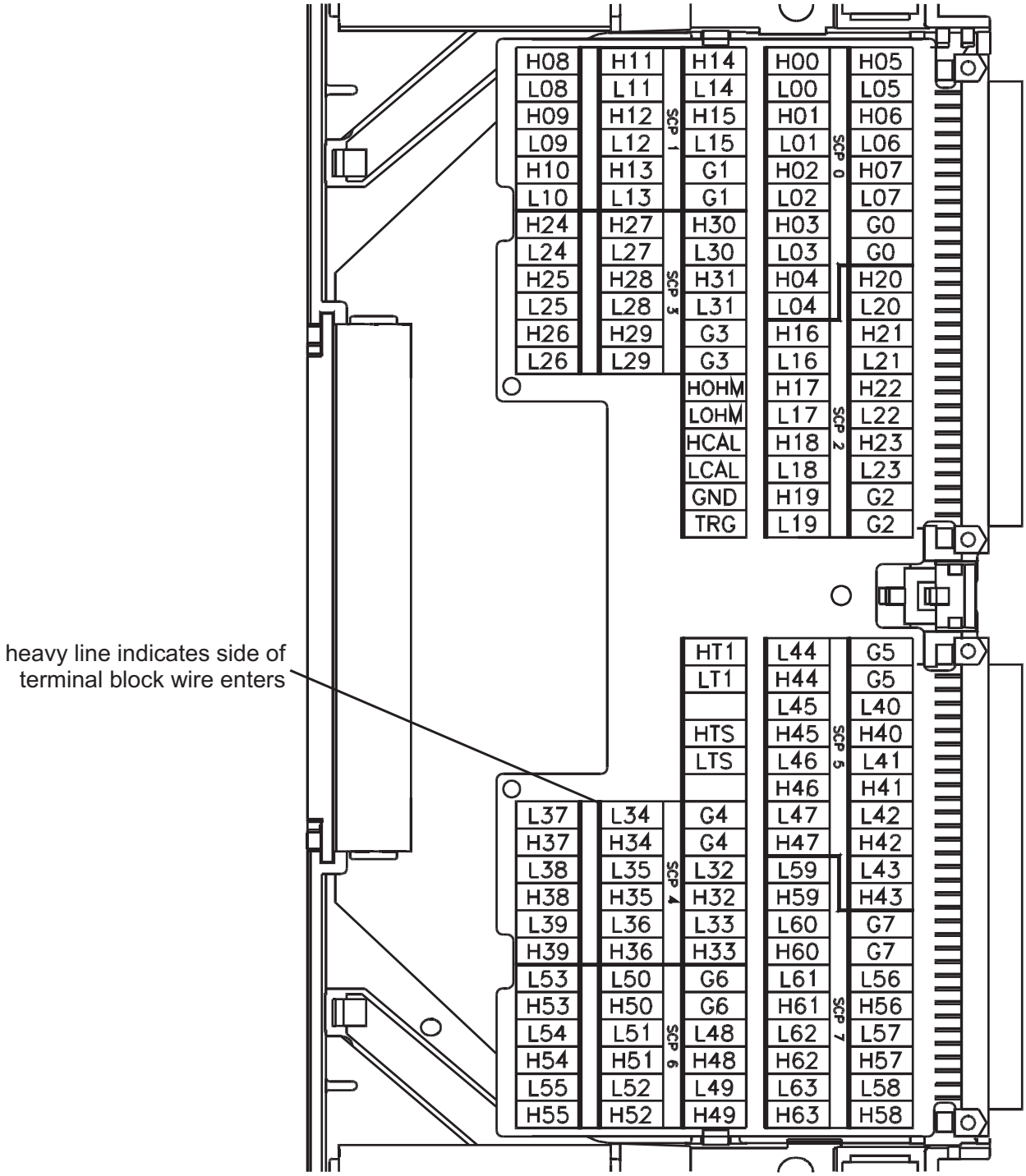


Figure 2-18: VT1419A Option 11 Terminal Module Map

Option 12 Terminal Module Wiring Map

Figure 2-19 shows the Terminal Module map for the VT1419A.

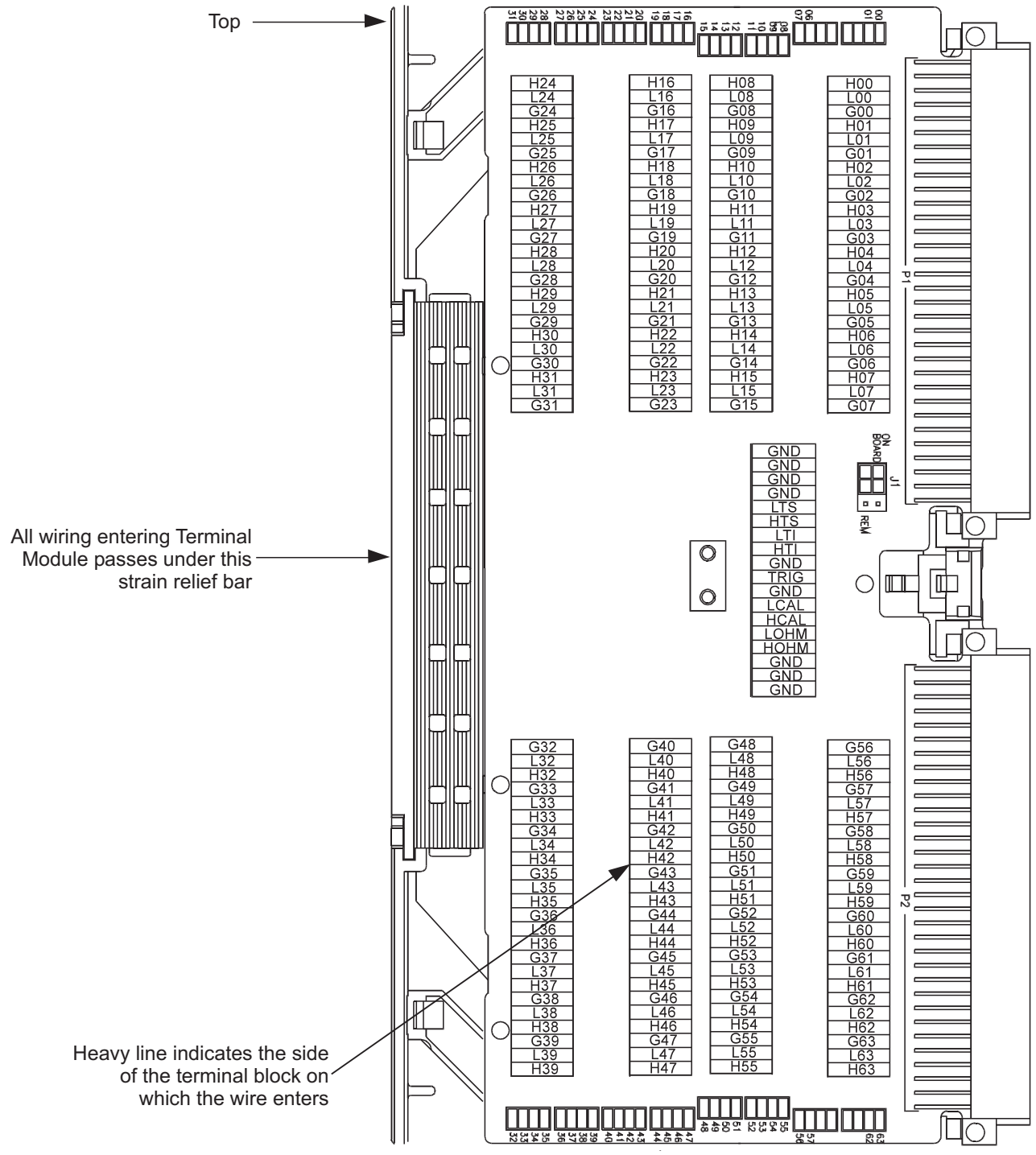

Top
All wiring entering Terminal Module passes under this strain relief bar
Heavy line indicates the side of the terminal block on which the wire enters
P1
P2
ON BOARD
J1
REM
H24 L24 G24 H25 L25 G25 H26 L26 G26 H27 L27 G27 H28 L28 G28 H29 L29 G29 H30 L30 G30 H31 L31 G31
H16 L16 G16 H17 L17 G17 H18 L18 G18 H19 L19 G19 H20 L20 G20 H21 L21 G21 H22 L22 G22 H23 L23 G23
H08 L08 G08 H09 L09 G09 H10 L10 G10 H11 L11 G11 H12 L12 G12 H13 L13 G13 H14 L14 G14 H15 L15 G15
H00 L00 G00 H01 L01 G01 H02 L02 G02 H03 L03 G03 H04 L04 G04 H05 L05 G05 H06 L06 G06 H07 L07 G07
GND GND GND GND LTS HTS LTI HTI GND TRIG GND LCAL HCAL LOHM HOHM GND GND GND
G32 L32 H32 G33 L33 H33 G34 L34 H34 G35 L35 H35 G36 L36 H36 G37 L37 H37 G38 L38 H38 G39 L39 H39
G40 L40 H40 G41 L41 H41 G42 L42 H42 G43 L43 H43 G44 L44 H44 G45 L45 H45 G46 L46 H46 G47 L47 H47
G48 L48 H48 G49 L49 H49 G50 L50 H50 G51 L51 H51 G52 L52 H52 G53 L53 H53 G54 L54 H54 G55 L55 H55
G56 L56 H56 G57 L57 H57 G58 L58 H58 G59 L59 H59 G60 L60 H60 G61 L61 H61 G62 L62 H62 G63 L63 H63

Figure 2-19: VT1419A Option 12 Terminal Module Map

The Option A3F

Option A3F allows a VT1419A to be connected to a VT1586A Rack Mount Terminal Panel. The option provides four SCSI plugs on a Terminal Module to make connections to the Rack Mount Terminal Panel using four separately ordered SCSI cables. Option A3F is shown in Figure 2-20.

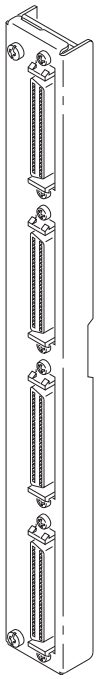


Figure 2-20: Option A3F

Rack Mount Terminal Panel Accessories

There are two different cables available to connect the VT1586A Rack Mount Terminal Panel to the VT1419A Option A3F. In both cases, four cables are required if all 64-channels are needed. These cables do not come with the VT1419A Option A3F and must be ordered separately.

Standard Cable

This cable (VT1588A) is a 16-channel twisted pair cable with an outer shield. This cable is suitable for relatively short cable runs.

HF Common Mode Filters

Optional High Frequency Common Mode Filters are on the VT1586A Rack Mount Terminal Panel's input channels (VT1586A-001, RF Filters). They filter out ac common mode signals present in the cable that connects between the terminal panel and the device under test. The filters are useful for filtering out small common mode signals below 5 V_{P-P}. To order these filters order VT1586A-001.

Chapter 3
Programming the VT1419A Multifunction*Plus*

About This Chapter

The focus of this chapter is to show the programming model of the VT1419A Multifunction*Plus* Data Acquisition and Control System. It introduces the concept of configuring the VT1419A using SCPI organizing 'C' programs that execute directly on the VT1419A VXI card, using those 'C' programs to make high-speed decisions, and acquiring data from the VT1419A's sophisticated FIFO and Current Value Table to display within a VEE graphical environment. To simplify the discussion, Agilent VEE is used and referenced in this manual and examples for Agilent VEE are provided. This chapter contains:

- Overview of the VT1419A Multifunction*Plus* . . . . . page 47
  Operating Model . . . . . page 51
- Executing the Programming Model . . . . . page 51
  Programming Overview Diagram . . . . . page 55
  - Setting up Analog Input and Output Channels . . . . . page 55
    Configuring Programmable SCP Parameters . . . . . page 55
    Linking Input Channels to EU Conversion . . . . . page 57
    Linking Output Channels to Functions . . . . . page 66
  - Setting up Digital Input and Output Channels . . . . . page 66
    Digital Input Channels . . . . . page 66
    Digital Output Channels . . . . . page 67
  - Performing Channel Calibration (Important!) . . . . . page 71
  - Defining C Language Algorithms . . . . . page 73
  - Pre-setting Algorithm variables and coefficients . . . . . page 74
  - Defining Data Storage . . . . . page 75
    Specifying the Data Format . . . . . page 75
    Selecting the FIFO Mode . . . . . page 76
  - Setting up the Trigger System . . . . . page 77
    Arm and Trigger Sources . . . . . page 77
    Programming the Trigger Timer . . . . . page 79
  - INITiating/Running Algorithms . . . . . page 80
  - Retrieving Algorithm Data . . . . . page 81
    Reading Algorithm Variables . . . . . page 81
  - Modifying Algorithm Variables . . . . . page 85
    Updating Algorithm Variables . . . . . page 85
    Enabling/Disabling Algorithms . . . . . page 85
    Setting Algorithm Execution Frequency . . . . . page 86
- Using the Status System . . . . . page 88
- VT1419A Background Operation . . . . . page 94
- Updating the Status System and VXI Interrupts . . . . . page 95
- Creating and Loading Custom EU Tables . . . . . page 96
- Compensating for System Offsets . . . . . page 97
- Detecting Open Transducers . . . . . page 100
- More on Auto Ranging . . . . . page 101
- Settling Characteristics . . . . . page 101

Overview of the VT1419A Multifunction^Plus

This section describes how the VT1419A gathers input data, executes its 'C' algorithms and sends its output data. Figure 3-1 shows a simplified functional block diagram.

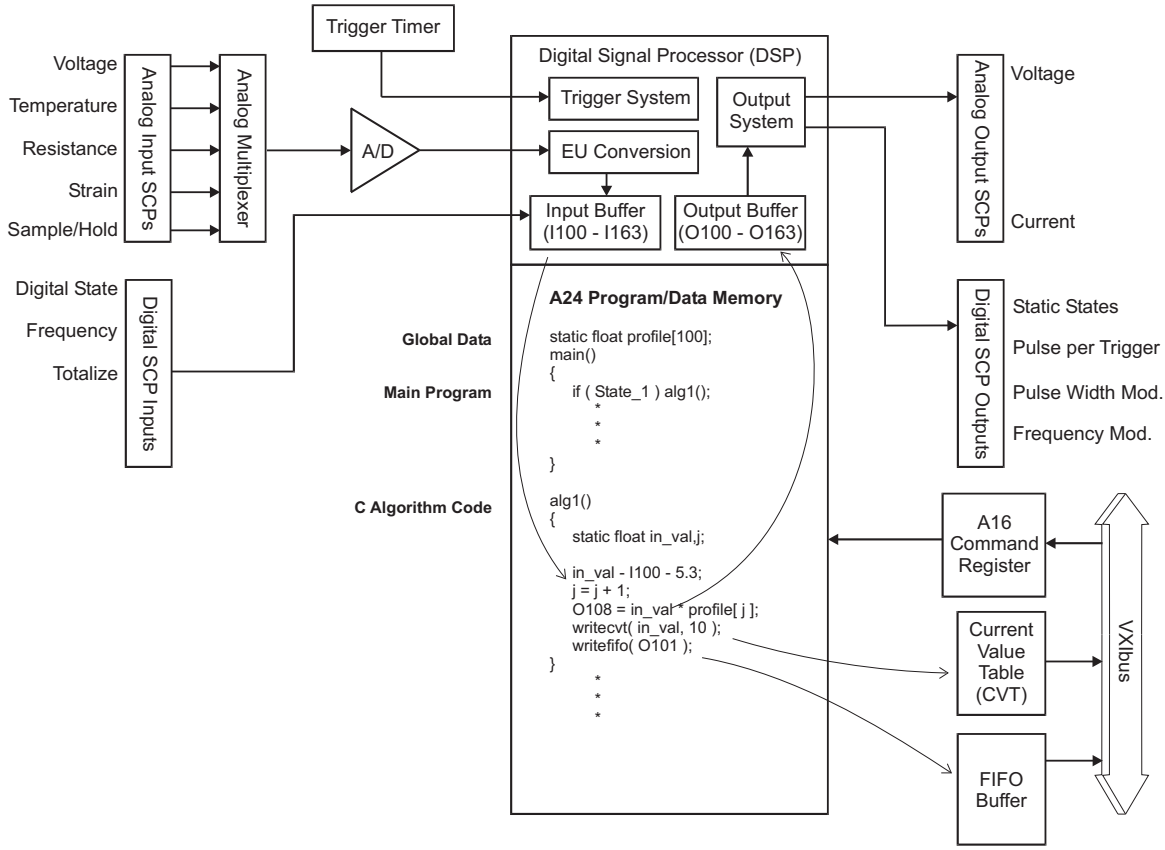


Figure 3-1: Simplified Functional Block Diagram

Multifunction^Plus?

The VT1419A is a complete data acquisition and control system on a single VXI card. It is "multifunction" because it uses the Signal Conditioning Plug-On (SCP) concept whereby analog input/output and digital input/output channels can be mixed to meet various application needs. It is "Multifunction^Plus" because it has local intelligence to permit the card to run stand-alone with very little interaction required with the supervisory computer.

The VT1419A has eight SCP slots with each SCP slot capable of addressing up to eight channels of input or output channels for a total of 64 channels. The first four SCP slots (which represent channels numbers 100-131) can mix and match any non-programmable analog input SCP such as fixed gain, fixed filter, straight-through, etc. The standard configuration of the VT1419A is four straight-through VT1501A SCP's that provide high-level signal input capabilities. The remaining the four SCP slots can be used for any of the twenty-plus analog/digital SCP's available for the VT1419A which cover most data acquisition and control needs.

The input and output SCP's are configured using the SCPI programming language. Analog SCP's are measured with the VT1419A's A/D. Configuring analog SCP's includes specifying what type of Engineering Unit (EU) conversion are desired for each analog input channel. For example, one channel may require a type T thermocouple conversion and another may be a resistance measurement. The on-board Digital Signal Processor (DSP) converts the voltage read across the analog input channel and applies a high-speed conversion which results in temperature, resistance, etc. Digital input SCP's perform their own conversions as configured by the SCPI language.

When the Trigger System is configured and either generates its own trigger or accepts a trigger from an external source, all digital input SCP's latch their current input state and the A/D starts scanning the analog channels. All measurement data is represented as 32-bit real numbers even if the input channel is inherently integer. The EU-converted numbers such as temperature, strain, resistance, volts, state, frequency, etc. are stored in an Input Buffer and later accessed by 'C' programs executing on the VT1419A card. Approximately 2,000 lines of user-written 'C' code can be downloaded into the VT1419A's memory and can be split among up to 32 algorithms. VXI Technology refers to these as algorithms because an algorithm is a step-by-step procedure for solving some problem or accomplishing some end. Though the documentation continues to refer to the 'C' code as algorithms, they may be thought of in traditional terms with each algorithm representing a 'C' function with a main() program which calls them.

The user-written 'C' algorithms execute after all analog/digital inputs have been stored in the Input Buffer. The 'C' code accesses the measurement data like constants with the names of I100-I163 representing the 32-bit real EU-converted numbers. As seen in Figure 3-1, the algorithms have access to both local and global variables and arrays. The I-variables are inherently global and accessible by any algorithm. Local variables are only visible to the particular algorithm (just like in 'C' functions). Declared global variables can be shared by any algorithm.

Agilent's VEE can read or write any local or global variable in any algorithm by using SCPI syntax that actually identifies the variable by name, but a more efficient means of reading data is available through the VT1419A's FIFO and Current Value Table (CVT). As seen in Figure 3-1, any algorithm can write any expression or constant to the FIFO/CVT. Agilent VEE can then read the FIFO/CVT to characterize what's happening inside the VT1419A and to provide an operator view of any input/output channel, variable, or constant.

Output SCP's derive their channel values from O-variables that are written by the algorithms. O100-O163 are read/write global variables that are read after all algorithms have finished executing. The 32-bit real values are converted to the appropriate units as defined by the SCPI configuration commands and written to the various output SCP's by channel number.

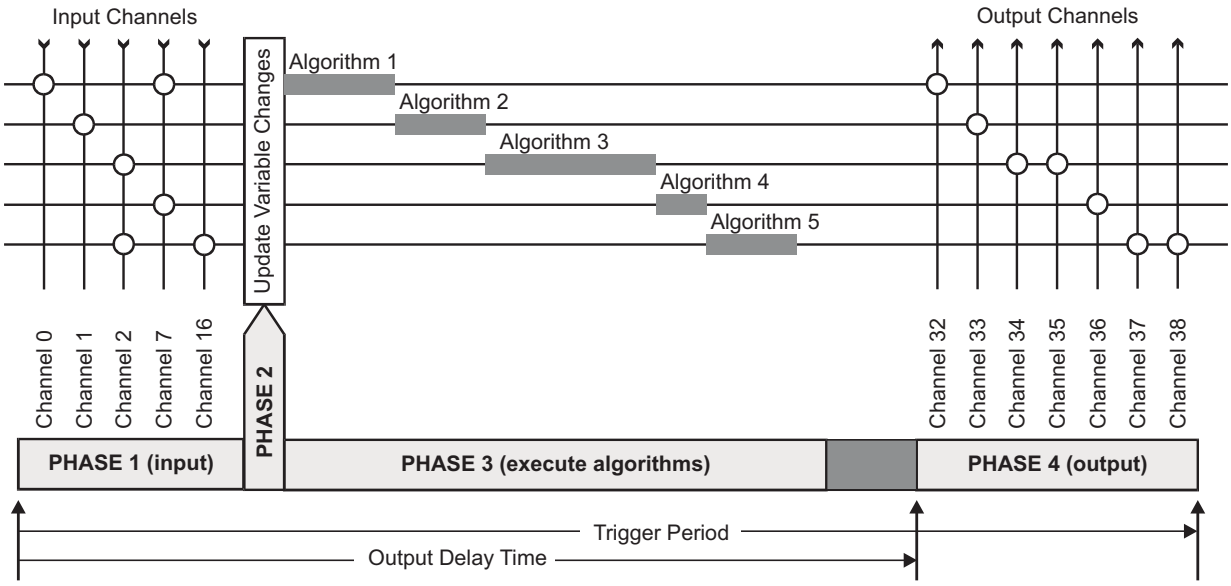


Figure 3-2: VT1419A Cycle Phases

Figure 3-2 illustrates the timing of all these operations and describes the VT1419A's input-update-execute algorithms-output phases. This cycle-based design is desirable because it results in deterministic operation of the VT1419A. That is, the input channels are always scanned and the output channels are always written at pre-defined intervals. Note too that any number of input channels or output channels are accessible by any of up to 32 user-written algorithms. The algorithms are named ALG1-ALG32 and execute in numerical order.

Notice the Update Window (phase 2) illustrated in Figure 3-2. This window has a user-specified length and is used to accept and make changes to local and global variables from the supervisory computer. Up to 512 scalar or array changes can be made while executing algorithms. Special care was taken to make sure all changes take place at the same time so that any particular algorithm or group of algorithms all operate on the new changes at a user-specified time. This does not mean that all scalar and array changes have to be received during one cycle to become effective at the next cycle. On the contrary, it may take a number of cycles to download new values, especially when trying to re-write 1024 element arrays and especially when the trigger cycle time is very short.

There are multiple times between the base triggers where scalar and array changes can be accepted from the supervisory computer and these changes are held in a holding buffer until the supervisory computer instructs the changes to take effect. These changes then take place during the Update window and take effect BEFORE algorithms start executing. The "do-update-now" signal can be sent by command (ALG:UPD) or by a change in a digital input state (ALG:UPD:CHAN). In either case, the programmer has control over when the new changes take effect.

The VT1419A's ability to execute programs directly on the card and its fast execution speed give the programmer real-time response to changing conditions. Additionally, programming the card has been made very easy to understand. The C programming language was chosen to write user programs because this language is already considered the industry standard. Choosing C allows algorithms to be written on PC's or UNIX® workstations that have C-compilers, so they can be debugged before execution on the card. The VT1419A also provides good debugging tools that permits worst-case execution speed to be determined, variables to be monitored while running and selective enabling/disabling any of the VT1419A's 32 algorithms.

VXI Technology uses a limited and simplified version of C since most applications need only basic operations: add, subtract, multiply, divide, scalar variables, arrays, and programming constructs. The programming constructs are limited to if-then-else to allow conditional evaluation and response to input changes. Since all algorithms have an opportunity to execute after each time-base trigger, the if-then-else constructs permit conditional skipping of cycle intervals so that some code segments or algorithms can execute at multiples of the cycle time instead of every cycle.

Looping constructs such as for or while are purposely left out of the language so that user programs are deterministic. Note that looping is not really needed for most applications since the cycle interval execution (via the trigger system) of every algorithm has inherent repeat looping. With no language looping constructs, the VT1419's C-compiler can perform a worst-case branch analysis of user programs and return the execution time for determining the minimum time-base interval. Making this timing query available allows the programmer to know exactly how much time may be required to execute any/all phases before attempting to set up physical test conditions.

Note the darker shaded portion at the end of the Execute Algorithms Phase in Figure 3-2. The conditional execution of code can cause the length of this phase to move back and forth like an accordion. This can cause undesirable output jitter when the beginning of the output phase starts immediately after the last user algorithm executes. The VT1419's design allows the user to specify when output signals begin relative to the start of the trigger cycle. Outputs then always occur at the same time, every time.

The programming task is further made easy with this design because all the difficult structure of handling input and output channels is done automatically. This is not true of many other products that may have several ways to acquire measurement data or write results to its I/O channels. When the VT1419A's user-written C algorithms are compiled, input channels and output channels are detected in the algorithms and are automatically grouped and configured for the Input and Output phases as seen in Figure 3-2. Each algorithm simply accesses input channels as variables and writes to output channels as variables. The rest is handled and optimized by the Input and Output phases. Instead of concentrating on how to deal with differences between each SCP, one can think of solving applications in terms of input and output value variables.

Operating Model

The VT1419A card operates in one or two states: either the “idle” state or the “running” state. The “idle” can be referred to as “Before INIT” and the “running” state can be referred to as “After INIT.” See Figure 3-3 for the following discussion.

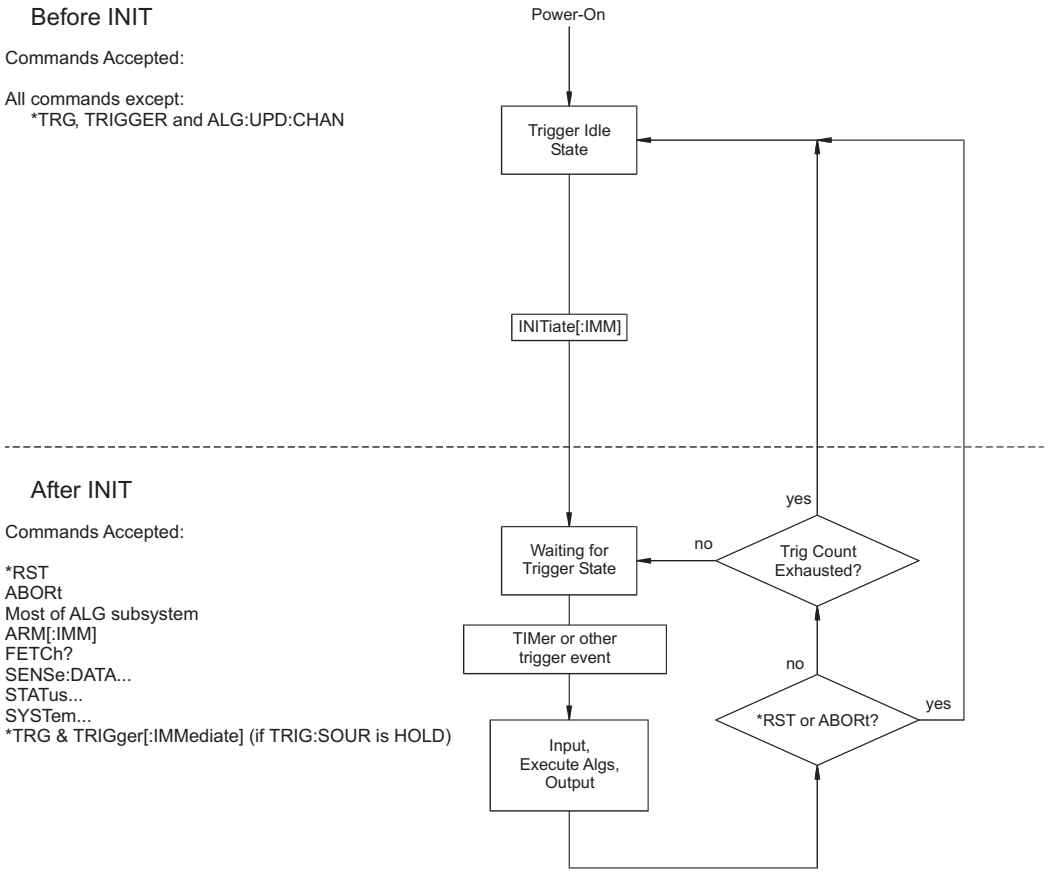


Figure 3-3: Module States

“Before INIT” positions the card in the Trigger Idle State and its DSP chip is ready to accept virtually all SCPI commands. This is the time when configuring and set up operations are performed. This would include linking Engineering Unit conversions to channels, designating digital input/output channels, downloading algorithms, etc.

“After INIT” (and when trigger events are taking place), the DSP is busy measuring input channels, executing algorithms, and updating outputs. However, there are periods of time between trigger events where the DSP is waiting for I/O or just waiting for the next trigger event. This time is utilized to accept a limited command set from the supervisory program (Agilent VEE, for example) to change scalars, arrays/elements or to download new algorithms. Agilent VEE communicates with the VT1419A’s driver and the driver then interfaces with the DSP, FIFO, CVT, etc., in cooperation with the operating state. The “When Accepted” comments in the Command Reference chapter specify which commands may be accepted before or after INIT.

Executing The Programming Model

This section shows the sequence of programming steps that should be used for the VT1419A. Within each step, most of the available choices are shown using example command sequences. Further details about various SCPI commands can be found in the Command Reference Chapter 6. A "command sequence" example can be found on page 84 of this chapter. Many VEE programming examples can be found in Chapter 5.

Important

It is very important while developing applications that error checking be included at least at the end of each major programming step by using the SYST:ERR? query command. Doing so more often may be desirable for complex sequences of commands in any particular step.

Power-On and *RST Default Settings

Some of the programming operations that follow may already be set after Power-ON or after an *RST command. Where these default settings coincide with the configuration settings required, it is unnecessary to explicitly execute a command to set them. These are the default settings:

- No algorithms are defined and therefore no channels will be scanned
- Programmable SCP's are configured to their Power-ON defaults (see the SCP's manual for these defaults)
- All analog input channels are linked to EU conversion for voltage
- All non-isolated digital I/O channels are set to input static digital state
- VT1536A Isolated digital I/O channels are switch configured and wake up as such
- Trigger subsystem set to: ARM:SOURCE IMM, TRIG:SOUR TIMER, TRIG:COUNT INFinite, and TRIG:TIMER 0.010
- FIFO/CVT data returned in ASCII format
- FIFO set to BLOCking mode to disallow overwriting of unread data

Figure 3-4 shows a comprehensive, step-by-step programming sequence that may be required for an application. As stated earlier, many of these steps need only minimal attention since the most common configurations are defaults at power-ON or *RST. Figure 3-5 shows a block diagram of the VT1419A with the numbered programming steps and various SCPI commands associated with those steps.

Keep in mind that the first four SCP positions (0 through 3) can only be configured with non-programmable SCPs. SCPs with programmable gain/filter, digital input/output, analog output, strain gage, etc., are NOT supported in these slots. This restriction encompasses channels 100-131.

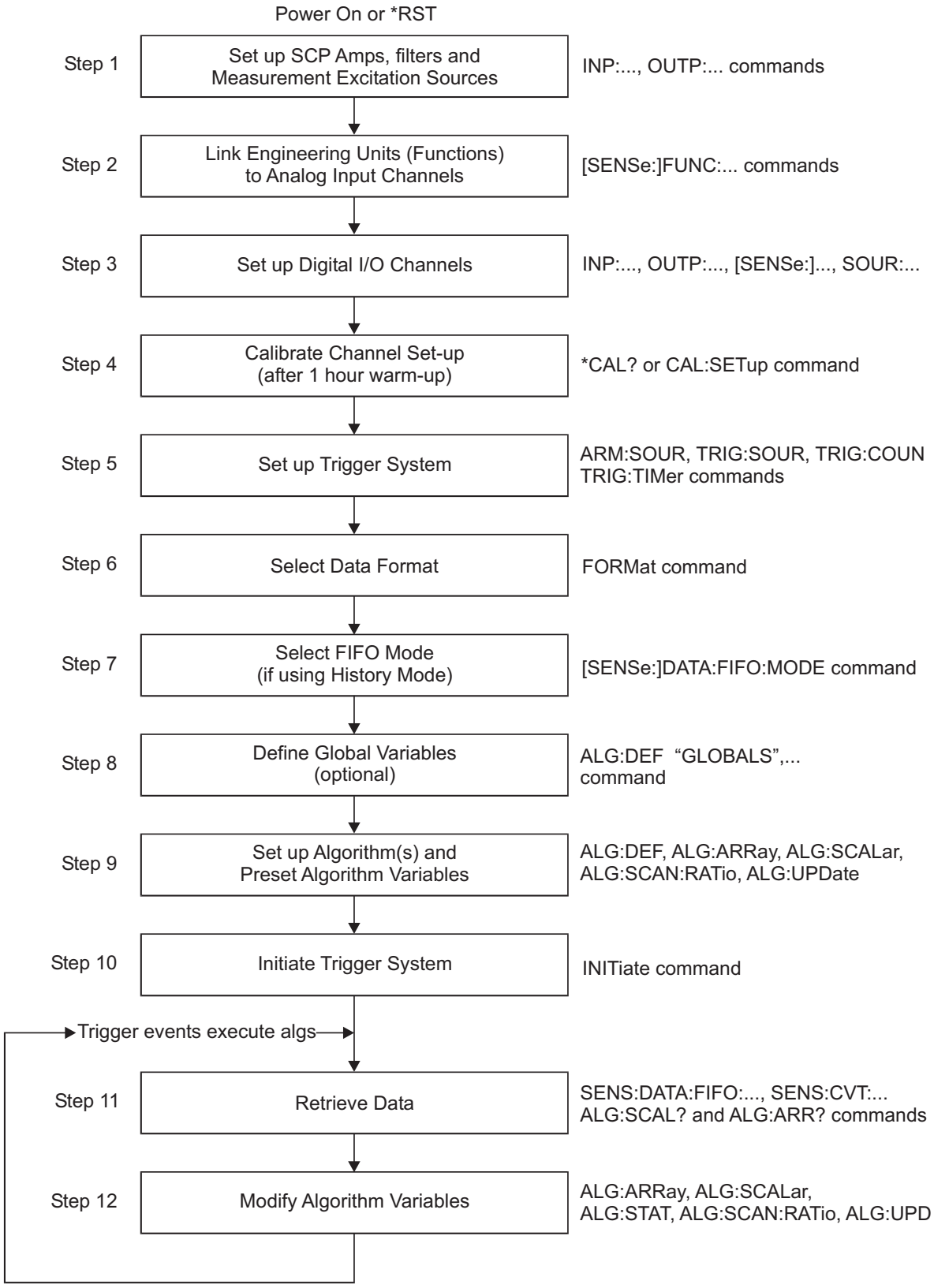


Figure 3-4: Programming Sequence

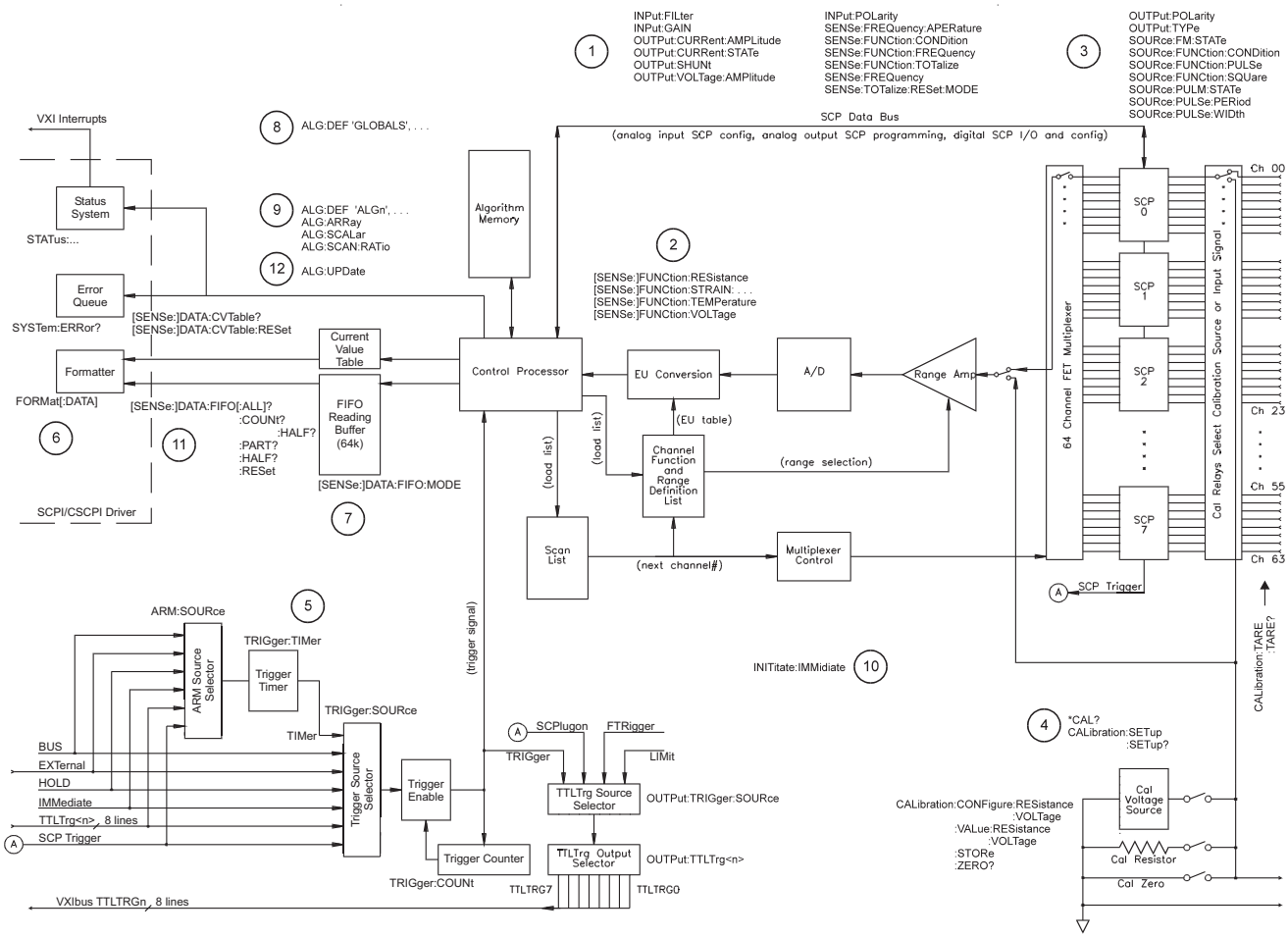


Figure 3-5: Programming Overview

Setting Up Analog Input and Output Channels

This section covers configuring input and output channels to provide the measurement values and output characteristics that an algorithm needs to operate.

Configuring Programmable Analog SCP Parameters

This step applies only to programmable Signal Conditioning Plug-Ons such as the VT1503A Programmable Amplifier/Filter SCP, the VT1505A Current Source SCP, the VT1518A Resistance Measurement SCP, the VT1510A Sample and Hold SCP and the VT1511A Transient Strain SCP. See the particular SCP's User's manual to determine the gain, filter cutoff frequency or excitation amplitude selections that it may provide.

Note The VT1419A only supports these programmable analog SCPs on SCP positions 4 through 7.

Setting SCP Gains

An important thing to understand about input amplifier SCPs is that given a fixed input value at a channel, changes in channel gain do not change the value an algorithm will receive from that channel. The DSP chip (Digital Signal Processor) keeps track of SCP gain and range amplifier settings and "calculates" a value that reflects the signal level at the input terminal. The only time this in not true is when the SCP gain chosen would cause the output of the SCP amplifier to be too great for the selected A/D range. As an example, with SCP gain set to 64, an input signal greater than ±0.25 volts would cause an over-range reading even with the A/D set to its 16 volt range.

The gain command for SCPs with programmable amplifiers is:

INPut:GAIN <*gain*>,(@<*ch_list*>) to select SCP channel gain.

The gain selections provided by the SCP can be assigned to any channel individually or in groups. Send a separate command for each gain selection. An example for the VT1503A programmable Amp&Filter SCP:

To set the SCP gain to 8 for channels 40, 44, 46, and 48 through 51 send:

```
INP:GAIN 8,(@140,144,146,148:151)
```

To set the SCP gain to 16 for channels 56 through 59 and to 64 for channels 60 through 63 send:

```
INP:GAIN 16,(@156:159)
INP:GAIN 64,(@160:163)
```

Setting Filter Cutoff Frequency

The commands for programmable filters are:

INPut:FILTer[:LPASs]:FREQuency <*cutoff_freq*>,(@<*ch_list*>) to select cutoff frequency

INPut:FILTer[:LPASs][:STATe] ON | OFF,(@<*ch_list*> to enable or disable input filtering

The cutoff frequency selections provided by the SCP can be assigned to any channel individually or in groups. Send a separate command for each frequency selection. For example:

To set 10 Hz cutoff for channels 40, 44, 46, and 48 through 51 send:

```
INP:FILT:FREQ 10,(@140,144,146,148:151)
```

To set 10 Hz cutoff for channels 56 through 59 and 100 Hz cutoff for channels 60 through 633 send:

```
INP:FILT:FREQ 10,(@156:159)
INP:FILT:FREQ 100,(@160:163)
```

By default (after *RST or at power-on) the filters are enabled (ON). To disable or re-enable individual (or all) channels, use the INP:FILT ON | OFF, (@<*ch_list*>) command. For example, to program filters for channels 56 and 57 off, send:

```
INP:FILT:STAT Off,(@156:157)
```

Setting the VT1505A and VT1518A Current Source SCPs

The Current Source SCP supplies excitation current for resistance type measurements. These include resistance and temperature measurements using resistance temperature sensors. The commands to control the VT1505A Current Source and VT1518A Resistance Measurement SCPs are: OUTPut:CURRent:AMPLitude <*amplitude*>,(@<*ch_list*>) and OUTPut:CURRent[:STATe] <*enable*>.

- The <*amplitude*> parameter sets the current output level. It is specified in units of amps dc and can take on the values 30e-6 (or MIN) and 488e-6 (or MAX). Select 488 μA for measuring resistances of less than 8,000 Ω. Select 30 μA for resistances of 8,000 Ω and above.
- The <*ch_list*> parameter specifies the Current Source SCP channels that will be set.

To set channels 40 and 41 to output 30 μA and channels 42 and 43 to output 488 μA:

```
OUTP:CURR 30e-6,(@140,141)
OUTP:CURR 488e-6,(@142,143)          separate command per output level
```

Notes

1. The OUTPut:CURRent:AMPLitude command is only for programming excitation current used in resistance measurement configurations. It is does not program output DAC SCPs like the VT1532A.
2. The VT1518A Current Measurement SCP is a combination of 4 channels of current source (same as the VT1505A) and four channels of amplified analog input (same as the VT1508A). The current source channels are on the lower four channels of the VT1518A.

Setting the VT1511A Strain Bridge SCP Excitation Voltage

The VT1511A Strain Bridge Completion SCP has a programmable bridge excitation voltage source. The command to control the excitation supply is OUTPut:VOLTage:AMPLitude <*amplitude*>,(@<*ch_list*>)

- The <*amplitude*> parameter can specify 0, 1, 2, 5, or 10 volts for the VT1511's excitation voltage.
- The <*ch_list*> parameter specifies the SCP and bridge channel excitation supply that will be programmed. There are four excitation supplies in each VT1511A.

To set the excitation supplies for channels 40 through 43 to output 2 volts:

```
OUTP:VOLT:AMPL 2,(@140:143)
```

NOTE

The OUTPut:VOLTage:AMPLitude command is only for programming excitation voltage used measurement configurations. It is does not program output DAC SCPs like the VT1531A and VT1537A.

Linking Channels to EU Conversion

This step links each of the module's channels to a specific measurement type. For analog input channels this "tells" the on-board control processor which EU conversion to apply to the value read on any channel. The processor is creating a list of conversion types vs. channel numbers.

The commands for linking EU conversion to channels are:

[SENSe:]FUNCtion:RESistance <*excite_current*>,[<*range*>,](@<*ch_list*>) for resistance measurements

[SENSe:]FUNCtion:STRain:<*%-3*>... <*excite_current*>,[<*range*>,](@<*ch_list*>) for strain bridge measurements

[SENSe:]FUNCtion:TEMPerature <*type*>,<*sub_type*>,[<*range*>,](@<*ch_list*>) for temperature measurements with thermocouples, thermistors or RTDs

[SENSe:]FUNCtion:VOLTage <*range*>,(@<*ch_list*>) for voltage measurements

[SENSe:]FUNCtion:CUSTom <range>,(@<*ch_list*>) for custom EU conversions.

NOTE At Power-on and after *RST, the default EU Conversion is autorange voltage for analog input channels.

Linking Voltage Measurements

To link channels to the voltage conversion send the [SENSe:]FUNCtion:VOLTage [<*range*>,] (@<*ch_list*>) command.

- The <*ch_list*> parameter specifies which channels to link to the voltage EU conversion.
- The optional <*range*> parameter can be used to choose a fixed A/D range. Valid values are: 0.0625, 0.25, 1, 4, 16, or AUTO. When not specified, the module uses auto-range (AUTO).

To set channels 0 through 15 to measure voltage using auto-range:

```
SENS:FUNC:VOLT  AUTO,(@100:115)
```

To set channels 0 and 23 to the 16 volt range and 28 through 31 to the 0.0625 volt range:

```
SENS:FUNC:VOLT  16,(@100,123)
SENS:FUNC:VOLT  .625,(@128:131)          must send a command per range
```

Note When using manual range in combination with amplifier SCPs, the EU conversion will try to return readings which reflect the value of the input signal. However, the user must choose range values that will provide good measurement performance (avoiding over-ranges and select ranges that provide good resolution based on the input signal). In general, measurements can be made at full speed using auto-range.

Linking Resistance Measurements

To link channels to the resistance EU conversion send the [SENSe:]FUNCtion:RESistance <*excite_current*>,[<*range*>,](@<*ch_list*>) command.

Resistance measurements assume that there is at least one Current Source SCP installed (eight current sources per SCP). See Figure 3-6.

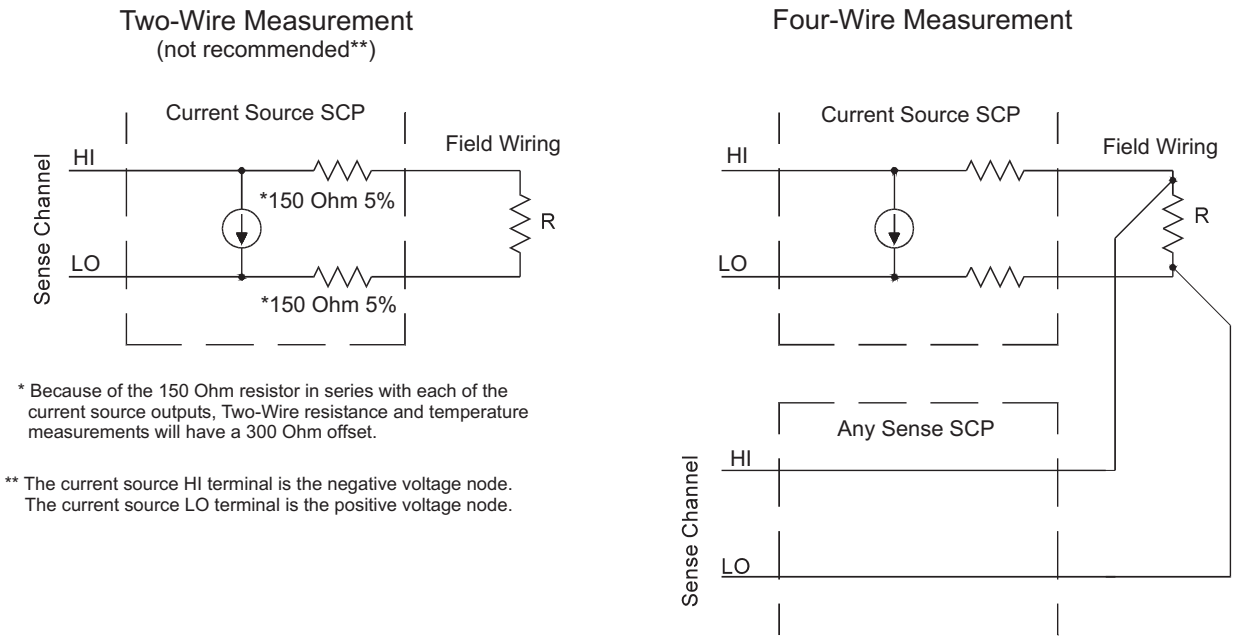


Figure 3-6: Resistance Measurement Sensing

- The <*excite_current*> parameter is used only to tell the EU conversion what the Current Source SCP channel is now set to. <*excite_current*> is specified in amps dc and the choices for the VT1505A SCP are 30e-6 (or MIN) and 488e-6 (or MAX). Select 488 μA for measuring resistances of less than 8,000 Ω. Select 30 μA for resistances of 8,000 Ω and above.
- The optional <*range*> parameter can be used to choose a fixed A/D range. When not specified (defaulted), the module uses auto-range.
- The <*ch_list*> parameter specifies which channel(s) to link to the resistance EU conversion. These channels will sense the voltage across the unknown resistance. Each can be a Current Source SCP channel (a two-wire resistance measurement) or a sense channel separate from the Current Source SCP channel (a four-wire resistance measurement). See figure 3-6 for diagrams of these measurement connections.

To set channels 0 through 3 to measure resistances greater than 8,000 ohms and set channels 4 through 7 to measure resistances less than 8k (in this case paired to current source SCP channels 32 through 39):

OUTP:CURR:AMPL 30e-6, (@132:135)

set 4 channels to output 30 µA for 8 kΩ or greater resistances

SENS:FUNC:RES 30e-6, (@100:103)

link channels 0 through 4 to resistance EU conversion (8 kΩ or greater)

OUTP:CURR:AMPL 488e-6, (@136:139)

set 4 channels to output 488 µA for less than 8 kΩ resistances

SENS:FUNC:RES 488e-6, (@104:107)

link channels 4 through 7 to resistance EU conversion (less than 8 kΩ)

Linking Temperature Measurements

To link channels to temperature EU conversion send the [SENSe:]FUNCtion:TEMPerature <*type*>, <*sub_type*>, [<*range*>,](@<*ch_list*>) command.

- The <*ch_list*> parameter specifies which channel(s) to link to the temperature EU conversion.
- The <*type*> parameter specifies RTD, THERmistor, or TC (for ThermoCouple)
- The optional <*range*> parameter can be used to choose a fixed A/D range. When not specified (defaulted), the module uses auto-range.

RTD and Thermistor Measurements

Temperature measurements using resistance type sensors involve all the same considerations as resistance measurements discussed in the previous section. See the discussion of Figure 3-6 in "Linking Resistance Measurements."

For resistance temperature measurements the <*sub_type*> parameter specifies:

- For RTDs; "85" or "92" (for 100 ohm RTDs with 0.003**85** or 0.003**92** ohms/ohm/°C temperature coefficients respectively)
- For Thermistors; 2250, 5000, or 10000 (the nominal value of these devices at 25 °C)

NOTES

3. Resistance temperature measurements (RTDs and THERmistors) require the use of Current Source Signal Conditioning Plug-Ons. The following table shows the Current Source setting that must be used for the following RTDs and Thermistors:

Required Current Amplitude	Temperature Sensor Types and Subtypes
MAX (488 µA) MIN (30 µA)	RTD,85 | 92 and THER,2250 THER,5000 | 10000

To set channels 0 through 7 to measure temperature using 2,250 ohm thermistors (in this case paired to current source SCP channels 32 through 39):

OUTP:CURR:AMPL 488e-6,(@132:139)

set excite current to 488 µA on current SCP channels 32 through 39

SENS:FUNC:TEMP THER, 2250, (@100:107)

link channels 0 through 7 to temperature EU conversion for 2,250Ω thermistor

To set channels 8 through 15 to measure temperature using 10,000 Ω thermistors (in this case paired to current source SCP channels 40 through 47):

OUTP:CURR:AMPL 30e-6,(@140:147)

set excite current to 30 µA on current SCP channels 40 through 47

SENS:FUNC:TEMP THER, 10000, (@108:115)

link channels 8 through 15 to temperature EU conversion for 10,000 Ω thermistor

To set channel 7 to measure temperature using 100 Ω RTD with a TC of 0.00385 ohm/ohm/°C (in this case paired to current source SCP channel 39):

OUTP:CURR:AMPL 488e-6,(@139)

set excite current to 488 µA on current SCP channels 32 through 47

SENS:FUNC:TEMP RTD, 85, (@107)

link channel 7 to temperature EU conversion for 100 Ω RTDs with 0.00385 TC.

Thermocouple Measurements

Thermocouple measurements are voltage measurements that the EU conversion changes into temperature values based on the <*sub_type*> parameter and latest reference temperature value.

- For Thermocouples the <*sub_type*> parameter can specify CUSTom, E, EEXT, J, K, N, R, S, T (CUSTom is pre-defined as Type K, no reference junction compensation. EEXT is the type E for extended temperatures of 800 °C or above).

To set channels 24 through 31 to measure temperature using type E thermocouples:

SENS:FUNC:TEMP TC, E, (@124:131)

(see following section to configure a TC reference measurement)

Thermocouple Reference Temperature Compensation

The isothermal reference temperature is required for thermocouple temperature EU conversions. The Reference Temperature Register must be loaded with the current reference temperature before thermocouple channels are scanned. The Reference Temperature Register can be loaded two ways:

4. By measuring the temperature of an isothermal reference junction during an input scan.
5. By supplying a constant temperature value (that of a controlled temperature reference junction) before a scan is started.

Setting up a Reference Temperature Measurement

This operation requires two commands, the [SENSe:]REFerence command and the [SENSe:]REFerence:CHANnels command.

The [SENSe:]REFerence <*type*>, <*sub_type*>,[<*range*>,](@<*ch_list*>) command links channels to the reference temperature EU conversion.

- The <*ch_list*> parameter specifies the sense channel that is connected to the reference temperature sensor.
- The <*type*> parameter can specify THERmistor, RTD, or CUSTom. THER and RTD, are resistance temperature measurements and use the on-board 122 μA current source for excitation. CUSTom is pre-defined as a Type E thermocouple which has a thermally controlled ice point reference junction.
- The <*sub_type*> parameter must specify:
  - For RTDs; “85" or ”92" (for 100 ohm RTDs with 0.003**85** or 0.003**92** ohms/ohm/°C temperature coefficients respectively)
  - For Thermistors; only “5000" (See previous note on page 61)
  - For CUSTom; only “1"
- The optional <*range*> parameter can be used to choose a fixed A/D range. When not specified (defaulted) or set to AUTO, the module uses auto-range.

Reference Measurement Before Thermocouple Measurements

At this point, the concept of the VT1419A Scan List will be introduced. As each algorithm is defined, the VT1419A places any reference to an analog input channel into the Scan List. When algorithms are run, the scan list tells the VT1419A which analog channels to scan during the Input Phase. Since the algorithm has no way to specify that an input channel is a reference temperature channel, the command: [SENSe:]REFerence:CHANnels (@<*ref_chan*>),(@<*meas_ch_list*>) is used to place the <*ref_chan*> channel in the scan list before the related thermocouple measuring channels. Now when analog channels are scanned, the VT1419A will include the reference channel in the scan list and will scan it before the specified thermocouples are scanned. The reference measurement will be stored in the Reference Temperature Register. The reference temperature value is applied to the thermocouple EU conversions for thermocouple channel measurements that follow.

A Complete Thermocouple Measurement Command Sequence

The command sequence performs these functions:

- Configures reference temperature measurement on channel 15.
- Configures thermocouple measurements on channels 16 through 23.
- Instructs the VT1419A to add channel 15 to the Scan List and order channels so channel 15 will be scanned before channels 16 through 23.

SENS:REF THER, 5000, (@115)	*5k thermistor temperature for channel 15*
SENS:FUNC:TEMP TC,J,(@116:123)	*Type J thermocouple temperature for channels 16 through 23*
SENS:REF:CHAN (@115),(@116:123)	*configure reference channel to be scanned before channels 16 - 23*

Supplying a Fixed Reference Temperature

The [SENSe:]REFerence:TEMPerature <*degrees_c*> command immediately stores the temperature of a controlled temperature reference junction panel in the Reference Temperature Register. The value is applied to all subsequent thermocouple channel measurements so there is no need to use SENS:REF:CHANNELS when using SENS:REF:TEMP.

To specify the temperature of a controlled temperature reference panel:

```
SENS:REF:TEMP 50                    reference temp = 50 °C
Now begin scan to measure thermocouples
```

Linking Strain Measurements

Strain measurements usually employ a Strain Completion and Excitation SCP (VT1506A, VT1507A, VT1511A). To link channels to strain EU conversions send the [SENSe:]FUNCtion:STRain:<*bridge_type*> [<*range*>,](@<*ch_list*>)

- <*bridge_type*> is not a parameter but is part of the command syntax. The following table relates the command syntax to bridge type. See the VT1506A , VT1507A, and VT1511A SCPs' user's manuals for bridge schematics and field wiring information.

Command	Bridge Type
:FBENding	Full Bending Bridge
:FBPoisson	Full Bending Poisson Bridge
:FPOission	Full Poisson Bridge
:HBENding	Half Bending Bridge
:HPOisson	Half Poisson Bridge
:[QUARter]	Quarter Bridge (Default)

- The <*ch_list*> parameter specifies which sense SCP channel(s) to link to the strain EU conversion. <*ch_list*> does not specify channels on the VT1506A/07A Strain Bridge Completion SCPs but does specify one of the lower four channels of a VT1511A SCP.
- The optional <*range*> parameter can be used to choose a fixed A/D range. When not specified (defaulted), the module uses auto-range.

To link channels 40 through 43 to the quarter bridge strain EU conversion:

```
SENS:FUNC:STR:QUAR (@140:143)       uses autorange
```

Other commands used to set up strain measurements are:

```
[SENSe:]STRain:POISson
[SENSe:]STRain:EXCitation
[SENSe:]STRain:GFACtor
[SENSe:]STRain:UNSTrained
```

For more detailed programming information, see the individual SCP manual.

NOTE Because of the number of possible strain gage configurations, the driver must generate any Strain EU conversion tables and download them to the instrument when INITiate is executed. This can cause the time to complete the INIT command to exceed one minute.

Custom EU Conversions

See “Creating and Loading Custom EU Conversion Tables” on page 96.

Linking Output Channels to Functions

Analog outputs are implemented either by a VT1531A or VT1537A Voltage Output SCP or a VT1532A Current Output SCP. Channels where these SCPs are installed are automatically considered outputs. No SOURce:FUNCtion command is required since the VT1531A and VT1537A can only output voltage, while the VT1532A can only output current. The only way to control the output amplitude of these SCPs is through the VT1419A’s Algorithm Language.

Setting Up Digital Input and Output Channels

Setting Up Digital Inputs

Digital inputs can be configured for polarity and depending on the SCP model, a selection of input functions as well. The following discussion will explain which functions are available with a particular Digital I/O SCP model. For Digital SCPs whose data direction is programmable, setting a digital channel’s input function is what defines it as an input channel. The VT1536A Isolated Digital I/O SCP’s data direction is set by configuration switches so the SENSe:FUNCtion and SOURce:FUNCtion commands do not apply.

Setting Input Polarity

To specify the input polarity (logical sense) for digital channels use the command INPut:POLarity <*mode*>,(@<*ch_list*>). This capability is available on all digital SCP models. This setting is valid even while the specified channel in not an input channel. If and when the channel is configured for input (an input FUNCtion command), the setting will be in effect. For the VT1536A the INP:POL command is disallowed for output channels.

- The <*mode*> parameter can be either NORMal or INVerted. When set to NORM, an input channel with 3 V applied will return a logical 1. When set to INV, a channel with 3 V applied will return a logic 0.
- The <*ch_list*> parameter specifies the channels to configure. The VT1533A has two channels of 8 bits each. All 8 bits in a channel take on the configuration specified for the channel. The VT1534A has 8 I/O bits that are individually configured as channels.

To configure the lower 8-bit channel of a VT1533A for inverted polarity:

```
INP:POLARITY INV,(@156)                    SCP in SCP position 7
```

To configure the lower 4 bits of a VT1534A for inverted polarity:

```
INP:POL INV,(@148:151)                     SCP in SCP position 6
```

Setting Input Function

Both the VT1533A Digital I/O SCP and VT1534A Frequency/Totalizer SCP can input static digital states. The VT1534A Frequency/Totalizer SCP can also input Frequency measurements and Totalize the occurrence of positive or negative digital signal edges.

Static State (CONDition) Function

To configure digital channels to input static states, use the [SENSe:]FUNCtion:CONDition (@<*ch_list*>) command. Examples:

To set the lower 8-bit channel of a VT1533A in SCP position 4 to input

SENS:FUNC:COND (@132)

To set the upper 4 channels (bits) of a VT1534A in SCP pos 5 to input states

SENS:FUNC:COND (@144:147)

Frequency Function

The frequency function uses two commands. For more on this VT1534A capability see the SCP's User's Manual.

To set the frequency counting gate time execute:

[SENSe:]FREQuency:APERature <*gate_time*>,(@<*ch_list*>)

Sets the digital channel function to frequency

[SENSe:]FUNCtion:FREQuency (@<*ch_list*>)

Totalizer Function

The totalizer function uses two commands also. One sets the channel function and the other sets the condition that will reset the totalizer count to zero. For more on this VT1534A capability see the SCP's User's Manual.

To set the VT1534A's totalize reset mode

[SENSe:]TOTalize:RESet:MODE INIT | TRIG,(@<*ch_list*>)

To configure VT1534A channels to the totalizer function

[SENSe:]FUNCtion:TOTalize (@<*ch_list*>)

Setting Up Digital Outputs

Digital outputs can be configured for polarity, output drive type, and depending on the SCP model, a selection of output functions as well. The following discussion will explain which functions are available with a particular Digital I/O SCP model. Setting a digital channel's output function is what defines it as an output channel.

Setting Output Polarity

To specify the output polarity (logical sense) for digital channels use the command OUTPut:POLarity <*mode*>,(@<*ch_list*>). This capability is available on all digital SCP models. This setting is valid even while the specified channel in not an output channel. If and when the channel is configured for output (an output FUNCtion command), the setting will be in effect.

- The <*mode*> parameter can be either NORMal or INVerted. When set to NORM, an output channel set to logic 0 will output a TTL compatible low. When set to INV, an output channel set to logic 0 will output a TTL compatible high.
- The <*ch_list*> parameter specifies the channels to configure. The VT1533A has two channels of 8 bits each. All 8 bits in a channel take on the configuration specified for the channel. The VT1534A has eight I/O bits that are individually configured as channels.

To configure the higher 8-bit channel of a VT1533A for inverted polarity:

```
OUTP:POLARITY INV,(@133)          SCP in SCP position 4
```

To configure the upper 4 bits of a VT1534A for inverted polarity:

```
OUTP:POL INV,(@136:139)           SCP in SCP position 4
```

Setting Output Drive Type

The VT1533A and VT1534A use output drivers that can be configured as either active or passive pull-up. To configure this, use the command OUTPut:TYPE <*mode*>,(@<*ch_list*>). This setting is valid even while the specified channel in not an output channel. If and when the channel is configured for output (an output FUNCtion command), the setting will be in effect.

- The <*mode*> parameter can be either ACTive or PASSive. When set to ACT (the default), the output provides active pull-up. When set to PASS, the output is pulled up by a resistor.
- The <*ch_list*> parameter specifies the channels to configure. The VT1533A has two channels of 8 bits each. All 8 bits in a channel take on the configuration specified for the channel. The VT1534A has eight I/O bits that are individually configured as channels.

To configure the higher 8-bit channel of a VT1533A for passive pull-up:

```
OUTP:TYPE PASS,(@156)             SCP in SCP position 7
```

To configure the upper 4 bits of a VT1534A for active pull-up:

```
OUTP:TYPE ACT,(@148:155)          SCP in SCP position 6
```

Setting Output Functions

Both the VT1533A Digital I/O SCP and VT1534A Frequency/Totalizer SCP can output static digital states. The VT1534A Frequency/Totalizer SCP can also output single pulses per trigger, continuous pluses that are width modulated (PWM and continuous pulses that are frequency modulated (FM).

Static State (CONDition) Function

To configure digital channels to output static states, use the SOURce:FUNCtion:CONDition (@<*ch_list*>) command. Examples:

To set the upper 8 bit channel of a VT1533A in SCP position 7 to output

```
SOUR:FUNC:COND (@157)
```

To set the lower 4 channels (bits) of a VT1534A in SCP pos 6 to output states

```
SOUR:FUNC:COND (@156:159)
```

Variable Width Pulse Per Trigger

This function sets up one or more VT1534A channels to output a single pulse per trigger (per algorithm execution). The width of the pulse from these channels is controlled by Algorithm Language statements. Use the command SOURce:FUNCtion[:SHAPe]:PULSe (@<*ch_list*>). Example command sequence:

To set VT1534A channel 2 at SCP position 6 to output a pulse per trigger

```
SOUR:FUNC:PULSE (@149)
```

Example algorithm statement to control pulse width to 1 ms

```
O149 = 0.001
```

Variable Width Pulses at Fixed Frequency (PWM)

This function sets up one or more VT1534A channels to output a train of pulses. A companion command sets the period for the complete pulse (rising edge to rising edge). This of course fixes the frequency of the pulse train. The width of the pulses from these channels is controlled by Algorithm Language statements.

Use the command SOURce:FUNCtion[:SHAPe]:PULSe (@<*ch_list*>). Example command sequence:

To enable pulse width modulation for VT1534A's third channel at SCP position 6

```
SOUR:PULM:STATE ON,(@150)
```

To set pulse period to 0.5 ms (which sets the signal frequency 2 kHz)

```
SOUR:PULSE:PERIOD 0.5e-3,(@150)
```

To set function of VT1534A's third channel in SCP position 6 to PULSE

```
SOUR:FUNCTION:PULSE (@150)
```

Example algorithm statement to control pulse width to 0.1 ms (20% duty-cycle)

```
O150 = 0.1e-3;
```

Fixed Width Pulses at Variable Frequency (FM)

This function sets up one or more VT1534A channels to output a train of pulses. A companion command sets the width (↑ edge to ↓ edge) of the pulses. The frequency of the pulse train from these channels is controlled by Algorithm Language statements.

Use the command SOURce:FUNCtion[:SHAPe]:PULSe (@<*ch_list*>). Example command sequence:

To enable frequency modulation for VT1534A's fourth channel at SCP position 6

```
SOUR:FM:STATE ON,(@151)
```

To set pulse width to 0.3333 ms

```
SOUR:PULSE:WIDTH 0.3333e-3,(@151)
```

To set function of VT1534A's fourth channel in SCP position 6 to PULSE

```
SOUR:FUNCTION:PULSE (@151)
```

Example algorithm statement to control frequency to 1000 Hz

```
O151 = 1000;
```

Variable Frequency Square-Wave Output (FM)

To set function of VT1534A's fifth channel in SCP position 6 to output a variable frequency square-wave.

```
SOUR:FUNCTION:SQUare (@152)
```

Example Algorithm Language statement to set output to 20 kHz

```
O152 = 20e3;
```

For complete VT1534A capabilities, see the SCP's User's Manual.

Performing Channel Calibration (Important!)

The *CAL? (also performed using CAL:SETup then CAL:SETup?) is a very important step. *CAL? generates calibration correction constants for all analog input and output channels. *CAL? must be performed in order for the VT1419A to deliver its specified accuracy. Wait for the module to thoroughly warm-up (1 hour) before executing a *CAL? operation. See the guidelines and notes on the following page.

The “Front Panel” example program shown in Chapter 5 provides a calibration function that executes *CAL? and also performs the CAL:STORE ADC command to store the results of the calibration to the VT1419A’s non-volatile flash memory. “*cal_1419.vee*” can be merged into any VEE application to perform the calibration function.

Operation and Restrictions

*CAL? generates calibration correction constants for each analog input channel for offset and gain at all 5 A/D range settings. For programmable input SCPs, these calibration constants are only valid for the current configuration (gain and filter cut-off frequency). This means that *CAL? calibration is no longer valid if channel gain or filter settings (INP:FILT or INP:GAIN) are changed, but is still valid for changes of channel function or range (using SENS:FUNC:…). Calibration also becomes invalid if the SCPs are moved to different SCP locations.

For analog output channels (both measurement excitation SCPs as well as control output SCPs) *CAL? also generates calibration correction constants. These calibration constants are valid only for the specific SCPs in the positions they are currently in. Calibration becomes invalid if the SCPs are moved to different SCP locations.

How to Use *CAL?

When power is turned on to the VT1419A after first installing the SCPs (or after SCPs have been moved), the module will use approximate values for calibration constants. This means that input and output channels will function although the values will not be very accurate relative to the VT1419A’s specified capability. At this point, make sure the module is firmly anchored to the mainframe (front panel screws are tight) and let it warm up for a full hour. After it has warmed up, execute the *CAL? operation.

What *CAL? Does

The *CAL? command causes the module to calibrate A/D offset and gain and all channel offsets. This may take many minutes to complete. The actual time required to complete *CAL? depends on the mix of SCPs installed. *CAL? performs hundreds of measurements of the internal calibration sources for each channel and must allow 17 time constants of settling wait each time a filtered channel’s calibration source changes value. The *CAL? procedure is internally very sophisticated and results in an extremely well calibrated module.

When *CAL? finishes, it returns a +0 value to indicate success. The generated calibration constants are now in volatile memory as they always are when ready to use. If the configuration calibrated is to be fairly long-term, execute the CAL:STORE ADC command to store these constants in non-volatile memory. This way the module can restore calibration constants for this configuration should a power failure occur. After power returns and after the module warms up, these constants will be relatively accurate.

When to Execute *CAL?

- After a 1 hr warm-up from the time the mainframe is turned on if it has been off for more than a few minutes.
- When the channel gain and/or filter cut-off frequency is changed on programmable SCPs (using INPut:GAIN or INPut:FILTer…)
- When output current amplitude is changed on the VT1505A or VT1518A SCPs.
- When SCPs are re-configured to different locations. This is true even if an SCP is replaced with an identical model SCP because the calibration constants are specific to each SCP channel's individual performance.
- When the ambient temperature within the mainframe changes significantly. Temperature changes affect accuracy much more than long-term component drift. See temperature coefficients in Appendix A: "Specifications."

Notes

6. To save time when performing channel calibration on multiple VT1419As in the same mainframe, use the CAL:SETup and CAL:SETup? commands (see Chapter 6 for details).

7. It is not necessary to execute *CAL? or CAL:SETup each time an algorithm is run. See "When to Execute *CAL?" above for guidelines.

Defining C Language Algorithms

This section is an overview of how to write and download C algorithms into the VT1419A's memory. The assumption is that the user has some programming experience in C, but, since the VT1419A's version of C is limited, just about any experience with a programming language will suffice. See Chapter 4 for a complete description of the VT1419A's C language and functionality.

Arithmetic Operators: add +, subtract **-**, multiply *****, divide **/**
Assignment Operator: =
Comparison Functions: less than **<**, less than or equal **<=**, greater than **>**, greater than or equal **>=**, equal to **==**, not equal to **!=**
Boolean Functions: and **&&** or **||**, not **!**
Variables: scalars of type **`static float`**, and single dimensioned arrays of type **`static float`** limited to 1024 elements.
Constants:
32-bit decimal integer; **`Dddd...`** where **`D`** and **`d`** are decimal digits but **`D`** is not zero. No decimal point or exponent specified.
32-bit octal integer; **`0oo...`** where **`0`** is a leading zero and **`o`** is an octal digit. No decimal point or exponent specified.
32-bit hexadecimal integer; **`0Xhhh...`** or **`0xhhh...`** where **`h`** is a hex digit.
32-bit floating point; **`ddd.`**, **`ddd.ddd`**, **`ddde±dd`**, **`dddE±dd`**, **`ddd.dddedd`**, or **`ddd.dddEdd`** where d is a decimal digit.
Flow Control: conditional construct **`if(){ } else { }`**
Intrinsic Functions:
Return the absolute value; **`abs(`***<expr>***`)`**
Return minimum; **`min(`***<expr1>,<expr2>***`)`**
Return maximum; **`max(`***<expr1>,<expr2>***`)`**
User defined function; *<user_name>* **`(`***<expr>***`)`**
Write value to CVT element; **`writecvt(`***<expr>,<expr>***`)`**
Write value to FIFO buffer; **`writefifo(`***<expr>***`)`**
Write value to both CVT and FIFO; **`writeboth(`***<expr>,<expr>***`)`**

Global Variable Definition

Global variables are necessary when communicating information from one algorithm to another. Globals are initialized to 0 unless specifically assigned a value at define time. The initial value is only valid at the time of definition. That is, globals remain around and may be altered by other SCPI commands or algorithms. Globals are removed only by power-ON or *RST. The following string output is valid for strings of 256 characters or less.

```
ALG:DEF 'globals','static float output_max = 1, coefficients[ 10 ];'
```

If the global definition exceeds 256 characters, it will be necessary to download an indefinite block header, the definitions, and terminate it with a LF/EOI sequence:

```
ALG:DEF 'globals',#0static float output_max = 1, ..... LF/EOI
```

The LF/EOI sequence is part of the I/O and Instrument Manager in Agilent VEE. The VT1419A I/O device must be edited for direct I/O with EOI purposely selected to be sent with the EOL terminator.

Algorithm Definition

Algorithms are similar in nature to global definitions. Both scalars and arrays can be defined for local use by the algorithm. If less than 256 characters, simply place the algorithm code within string quotes:

```
ALG:DEF 'alg1','static float a = 1; if ( I100 > a ) writecvt( I100,10);'
```

If the algorithm exceeds 256 characters, it will be necessary to download an indefinite block header, the algorithm code, and terminated by a LF/EOI sequence:

```
ALG:DEF 'alg2',#0static float a = 1; ... ;LF/EOI
```

Algorithms remain around and cannot be altered once defined unless a fixed size is specified for the algorithm (see Chapter 4). Algorithms are removed from memory only by issuing a *RST or power-ON condition.

Agilent VEE text boxes are good tools for storing the algorithm code and will be used extensively by this manual. See the "*temp1419.vee*" example program in Chapter 5 which illustrates downloading algorithms to the VT1419A.

Pre-Setting Algorithm Variables

It may have been noticed in the examples above that a variable can be initialized to a particular value. However, that value is a one-time initialization. Later program execution may alter the variable and re-issuing an INIT command to re-start program execution will NOT re-initialize that variable. Instead, any scalar or array can be altered using SCPI commands prior to issuing the INIT command or the intrinsic variable First_loop can be relied upon to conditionally preset variables after receiving the INIT command. First_loop is a variable that is preset to non-zero due to the execution of the INIT command. With the occurrence of the first scan trigger and when algorithms execute for the first time, First_loop's value will be non-zero. Subsequent triggers will find this variable cleared. Here's an example of how First_loop can be used:

```
ALG:DEF 'alg1',#0static float a,b,c, start, some_array[ 4 ]; if ( First_loop )
{ a = 1; b = 2; c = 3; } * * LF/EOI
```

To pre-set variables under program control before issuing the INIT command, the ALG:SCALAR and ALG:ARRAY commands can be used. Assume the example algorithm above has already been defined. To preset the scalar **start** and the array **some_array**, the following commands can be used:

```
ALG:SCAL 'alg1','start',1.2345
ALG:ARR 'alg1','some_array',#232.....LF/EOI
ALG:UPD
```

The ALG:SCAL command designates the name of the algorithm of where to find the local variable start and assigns that variable the value of 1.2345. Likewise, the ALG:ARRAY command designates the name of the algorithm, the name of the local array and a definite length block for assigning the four real number values. As can be seen, the scalar assignment uses ASCII and the array assignment uses binary. The later makes for a much faster transfer, especially for large arrays. The format used is IEEE-754 8-byte binary real numbers. The header is #232 which states "the next 2 bytes are to be used to specify how many bytes are coming." In this case, 32 bytes represent the four, 8-byte elements of the array. A 100 element array would have a header of #3800. To pre-initialize a global scalar or array, the word 'globals' must be used instead of the algorithm name. The name simply specifies the memory space of where to find those elements.

As stated earlier in the chapter, all updates (changes) are held in a holding buffer until the computer issues the update command. The ALG:UPD is that command. Executing ALG:UPD before INIT does not make much difference since there is no concern as to how long it takes or how it is implemented. After INIT forces the buffered changes to all take place during the next Update Phase in the trigger cycle after reception of the ALG:UPD command.

Defining Data Storage

Specifying the Data Format

The format of the values stored in the FIFO buffer and CVT never changes. They are always stored as IEEE 32-bit Floating point numbers. The FORMat <*format*>[,<*length*>] command merely specifies whether and how the values will be converted as they are transferred from the CVT and FIFO to the host computer.

- The <*format*>[,<*length*>] parameters can specify:

PACKED	Same as REAL,64 except for the values of IEEE, -INF, IEEE +INF and Not-a-Number (NaN). See FORMat command in Chapter 5 for details.
REAL,32	means real 32-bit (no conversion, fastest)
REAL	same as above
REAL,64	means real 64-bit (values converted)
ASCii,7	means 7-bit ASCII (values converted)
ASCii	same as above (the *RST condition)

To specify that values are to remain in IEEE 32-bit Floating Point format for fastest transfer rate:

```
FORMAT REAL,32
```

To specify that values are to be converted to 7-bit ASCII and returned as a 15 character per value comma separated list:

```
FORMAT  ASC,7                    The *RST, *TST?, and power-on default format
```

or

```
FORM ASC                         same operation as above
```

Turning Off IEEE ± INF and NaN Values

The VT1419A stores data in its FIFO and CVT in a data format adhering to the IEEE-754. This format yields ±INF and NaN numbers for those values that indicate an out-of-bound condition (overrange reading) or some uninitialized number (CVT element has not been written), respectively. Normal data queries for Agilent VEE do not permit these numbers to go unnoticed during a transaction. Agilent VEE makes certain that valid numbers are being dealt with to avoid making calculations that can eventually cause errors. Therefore, any transaction that involves these numbers will cause an error in Agilent VEE and will abort the transaction.

To avoid this condition, the VT1419A SCPI command DIAG:IEEE OFF can be issued to the VT1419A to force it to never output ±INF or NaN. The default power-on or *RST condition is DIAG:IEEE ON, so this command must be explicitly sent to avoid the condition. Keep in mind that this condition ONLY occurs when selecting the FORM REAL command. FORM PACKED is another

way to avoid the numbers, but that is limited to the 8-byte data format. For speed, use FORM REAL,32 which is only four bytes per element.

Agilent VEE 4.0 does include in its Main Properties the ability to detect the infinity numbers generated by IEEE-754 and to force 9.9E37 numbers, but it will be more efficient to let the VT1419A keep from generating the IEEE-754 numbers.

Selecting the FIFO Mode

The VT1419A's FIFO can operate in two modes. One mode is for reading FIFO values while algorithms are executing, the other mode is for reading FIFO values after algorithms have been halted (ABORT sent).

- BLOCking: BLOCking mode is the default and is used to read the FIFO while algorithms are executing. Application programs must read FIFO values often enough to keep it from overflowing (see "Continuously Reading the FIFO" on page 83). The FIFO stops accepting values when it becomes full (65,024 values). Values sent by algorithms after the FIFO is full are discarded. The first value to exceed 65,024 sets the STAT:QUES:COND? bit 10 (FIFO Overflowed) and an error message is put in the Error Queue (read with SYS:ERR? command).
- OVERwrite: When the FIFO fills, the oldest values in the FIFO are overwritten by the newest values. Only the latest 65,024 values are available. In OVERwrite mode, the module must be halted (ABORT sent) before reading the FIFO (see "Reading the Latest FIFO Values" on page 84). This mode is very useful when it is necessary to view an algorithm's response to a disturbance.

To set the FIFO mode (blocking is the *RST/Power-on condition):

```
[SENSe:]DATA:FIFO:MODE OVERWRITE        select overwrite mode
[SENSe:]DATA:FIFO:MODE BLOCK            select blocking mode
```

Setting up the Trigger System

Arm and Trigger Sources

Figure 3-7 shows the trigger and arm model for the VT1419A. Note that when the Trigger Source selected is TIMer (the default), the remaining sources become Arm Sources. Using ARM:SOUR allows an event to be specified that must occur in order to start the Trigger Timer. The default Arm source is IMMediate (always armed).

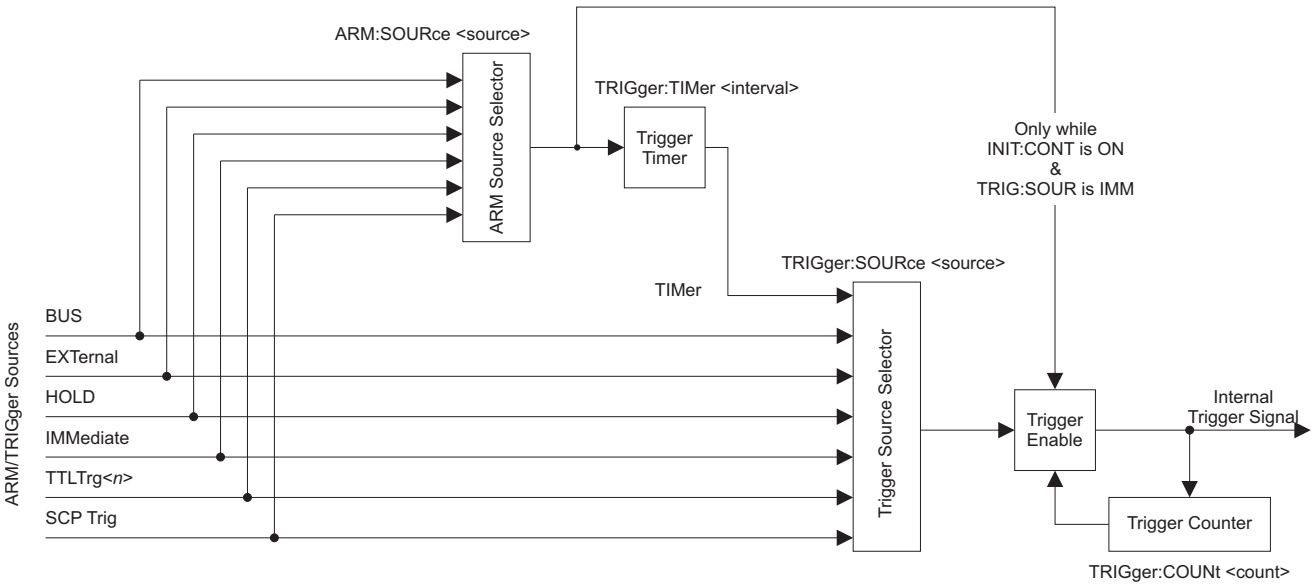


Figure 3-7: Logical Arm and Trigger Model

Selecting the Trigger Source

In order to start an algorithm execution cycle, a trigger event must occur. The source of this event is selected with the TRIGger:SOURce <*source*> command. The following table explains the possible choices for <*source*>.

Parameter Value	Source of Trigger (after INITiate:… command)
BUS	TRIGger[:IMMediate], *TRG, GET (for GPIB)
EXTernal	"TRG" signal input on terminal module
HOLD	TRIGger[:IMMediate]
IMMediate	The trigger signal is always true (scan starts when an INITiate:… command is received).
SCP	SCP Trigger Bus (future SCP Breadboard)
TIMer	The internal trigger interval timer (must set Arm source)
TTLTrg<n>	The VXIbus TTLTRG lines (n=0 through 7)

NOTES

1. When TRIGger:SOURce is not TIMer, ARM:SOURce must be set to IMMediate (the *RST condition). If not, the INIT command will generate an error -221,"Settings conflict."
2. When TRIGger:SOURce is TIMer, the trigger timer interval (TRIG:TIM <*interval*>) must allow enough time to scan all channels, execute all algorithms and update all outputs or a +3012, “Trigger Too Fast” error will be generated during the algorithm cycle. See the TRIG:TIM command on page 309 for details.

To set the trigger source to the internal Trigger Timer (the default):

```
TRIG:SOUR TIMER                    now select ARM:SOUR
```

To set the trigger source to the External Trigger input connection:

```
TRIG:SOUR EXT                      an external trigger signal
```

To set the trigger source to a VXIbus TTLTRG line:

```
TRIG:SOUR TTLTRG1                  the TTLTRG1 trigger line
```

Selecting Trigger Timer Arm Source

Figure 3-7 shows that when the TRIG:SOUR is TIMer, the other trigger sources become Arm sources that control when the timer will start. The command to select the arm source is ARM:SOURce <*source*>.

- The <*source*> parameter choices are explained in the following table

Parameter Value	Source of Arm (after INITiate:… command)
BUS	ARM[:IMMediate]
EXTernal	“TRG” signal input on terminal module
HOLD	ARM[:IMMediate]
IMMediate	The arm signal is always true (scan starts when an INITiate:… command is received).
SCP	SCP Trigger Bus (future SCP Breadboard)
TTLTrg<n>	The VXIbus TTLTRG lines (n=0 through 7)

NOTE

When TRIGger:SOURce is not TIMer, ARM:SOURce must be set to IMMediate (the *RST condition). If not, the INIT command will generate an error -221,"Settings conflict."

To set the external trigger signal as the arm source:

```
ARM:SOUR  EXT                      trigger input on connector
                                   module
```

Programming the Trigger Timer

When the VT1419A is triggered, it begins its algorithm execution cycle. The time it takes to complete a cycle is the minimum interval setting for the Trigger Timer. If programmed to a shorter time, the module will generate a “Trigger too fast” error. How can this minimum time be determined? After all algorithms are defined, send the ALG:TIME? command with its <*alg_name*> parameter set to ‘MAIN.’ This causes the VT1419A’s driver to analyze the time required for all four phases of the execution cycle: Input, Update, Execute Algorithm, and Output. The value returned from ALG:TIME? ‘MAIN’ is the minimum allowable Trigger Timer interval. With this information, execute the TRIGger:TIMer <*interval*> command and set <*interval*> to the desired time that is equal to or greater than the minimum.

Setting the Trigger Counter

The Trigger Counter controls how many trigger events will be allowed to start an input-calculate-output cycle. When the number of trigger events set with the TRIGger:COUNt command is reached, the module returns to the Trigger Idle State (needs to be INITiated again). The default Trigger Count is 0 which is the same as INF (can be triggered an unlimited number of times). This setting will be used most often because it allows un-interrupted execution of control algorithms.

To set the trigger count to 50 (perhaps to help debug an algorithm):

```
TRIG:COUNT 50          execute algorithms fifty times
                       then return to Trig Idle State.
```

Outputting Trigger Signals

The VT1419A can output trigger signals on any of the VXIbus TTLTRG lines. Use the OUTPut:TTLTrg<n>[:STATe] ON | OFF command to select one of the TTLTRG lines and then choose the source that will drive the TTLTRG line with the command OUTPut:TTLTrg:SOURce command. For details, see OUTP:TTLTRG commands starting on page 249.

To output a signal on the TTLTRG1 line each time the Trigger Timer cycles execute the commands:

```
TRIG:SOUR TIMER          select trig timer as trig source
OUTP:TTLTRG1 ON          select and enable TTLTRG1 line
OUTP:TTLTRG:SOUR TRIG    each trigger output on TTLTRG1
```

Initiating/Running Algorithms

When the INITiate[:IMMediate] command is sent, the VT1419A builds the input Scan List from the input channels referenced when the algorithm is defined with the ALG:DEF command above. The module also enters the Waiting For Trigger State (see Figure 3-3). In this state, all that is required to run the algorithm is a trigger event for each pass through the input-calculate-output cycle. To initiate the module, send the command:

INIT	*module in Waiting for Trigger State*

When an INIT command is executed, the driver checks several interrelated settings programmed in the previous steps. If there are conflicts in these settings an error message is placed in the Error Queue (read with the SYST:ERR? command). Some examples:

- If TRIG:SOUR is not TIMer then ARM:SOUR must be IMMediate.
- The time it would take to execute all algorithms is longer than the TRIG:TIMER interval currently set.

Starting Algorithms

Once the module is INITiated it can accept triggers from any source specified in TRIG:SOUR.

TRIG:SOUR TIMER	*(*RST default)*
ARM:SOUR IMM	*(*RST default)*
INIT	*INIT starts Timer triggers*
or	
TRIG:SOUR TIMER	
ARM:SOUR HOLD	
INIT	*INIT readies module*
ARM	*ARM starts Timer triggers.*

... and the algorithms start to execute.

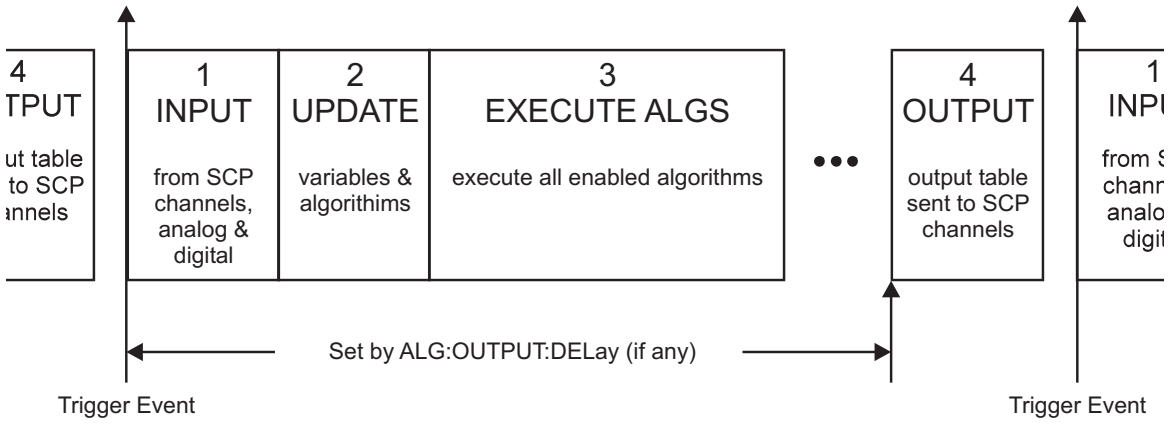


Figure 3-8: Sequence of Loop Operations

The Operating Sequence

The VT1419A has four major operating phases. Figure 3-8 shows these phases. A trigger event starts the sequence:

1. (INPUT): the state of all digital inputs are captured and each analog input channel that is linked to an algorithm variable is scanned.
2. (UPDATE): The update phase is a window of time made large enough to process all variables and algorithm changes made after INIT. Its width is specified by ALG:UPDATE:WINDOW. This window is the only time variables and algorithms can be changed. Variable and algorithm changes can actually be accepted during other phases, but the changes don't take place until an ALG:UPDATE command is received and the update phase begins. If no ALG:UPDATE command is pending, the update phase is simply used to accept variable and algorithm changes from the application program (using ALG:SCAL, ALG:ARR, ALG:DEF). Data acquired by external specialized measurement instruments can be sent to an algorithm at this time.
3. (EXECUTE ALGS): all INPUT and UPDATE values have been made available to the algorithm variables and each enabled algorithm is executed. The results to be output from algorithms are stored in the Output Channel Buffer.
4. (OUTPUT): each Output Channel Buffer value stored during (EXECUTE ALGS) is sent to its assigned SCP channel. The start of the OUTPUT phase relative to the Scan Trigger can be set with the SCPI command ALG:OUTP:DELay.

Retrieving Algorithm Data

The most efficient means of acquiring data from the VT1419A is to have its algorithms store real-number results in the FIFO or CVT. The algorithms use the writefifo(), writecvt() and writeboth() intrinsic functions to perform this operation as seen in Figure 3-9.

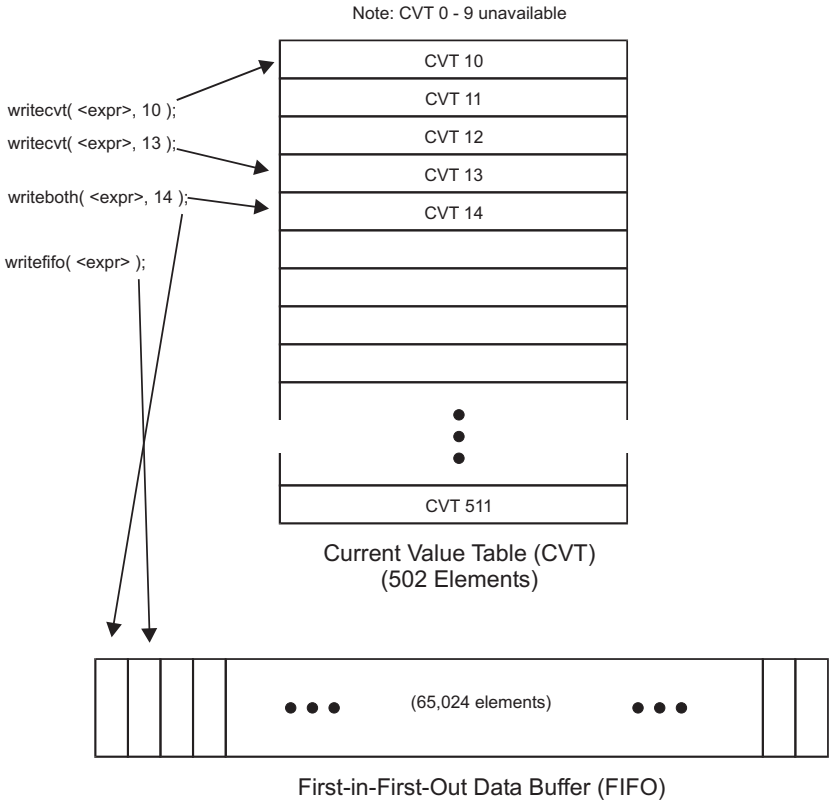


Figure 3-9: Writing Algorithm Data to FIFO and CVT

Note that the first ten elements of the CVT are unavailable. These are used by the driver for internal data retrieval. However, all algorithms have access to the remaining 502 elements. Data is retrieved from the CVT with:

DATA:CVT? (@10,12,14:67)

The format of data coming from the CVT is determined by the FORMat command.

The FIFO can store up to 65,024 real numbers. Each writefifo() or writeboth() cause that expression to be placed into the FIFO. With a FIFO this large, many seconds worth of data can be stored, dependent upon the volume of writes and the trigger cycle time. The FIFO's most valuable service is to keep the computer from having to spend too much time acquiring data from the VT1419A. This is ideal for Agilent VEE which has many other operator interactions and analysis to perform. Agilent VEE can quickly read the buffered data when required. Data is retrieved from the FIFO with:

DATA:FIFO:PART? <*count*>

The <*count*> parameter can be a number larger than the FIFO (up to 2.1 billion) if reading data continuously with Agilent VEE READ transactions is desired. The amount of data that is in the FIFO can also be queried using the DATA:FIFO:COUNT? command.

Read Variables Directly

To directly read algorithm variables that are not stored in the FIFO or CVT, simply specify the memory space (algorithm name or globals) and the name of the variable. To read the values of scalar variables or single array elements, use the command ALG:SCALar?. To read an entire array, use ALG:ARRay? The former returns data in ASCII and the later returns data in REAL,64 (8-byte IEEE-754 format). This coincides with the ALG:SCAL and ALG:ARR commands form writing data to these variables. Here are some examples:

ALG:SCAL? 'globals','my_var'

ALG:SCAL? 'alg1','my_array[6]'

ALG:ARR? 'alg2','my_other_array'

The ALG:ARR? response data will consist of a block header and real-64 data bytes. For example, if **my_other_array** was 10 elements, the block header would be #280 which says there are two bytes of count that specify 80 bytes of data to follow. Data from the VT1419A is terminated with the GPIB EOI signal.

Which FIFO Mode?

The way the FIFO will be read depends on how the mode was set in the programming step "Setting the FIFO Mode" on page 76.

Continuously Reading the FIFO (FIFO mode BLOCK)

To read the FIFO while algorithms are running, the FIFO mode must be set to SENS:DATA:FIFO:MODE BLOCK. In this mode, if the FIFO fills up, it stops accepting values from algorithms. The algorithms continue to execute, but the latest data is lost. To avoid losing any FIFO data, the application needs to read the FIFO often enough to keep it from overflowing. Here's a flow diagram to show where and when to use the FIFO commands.

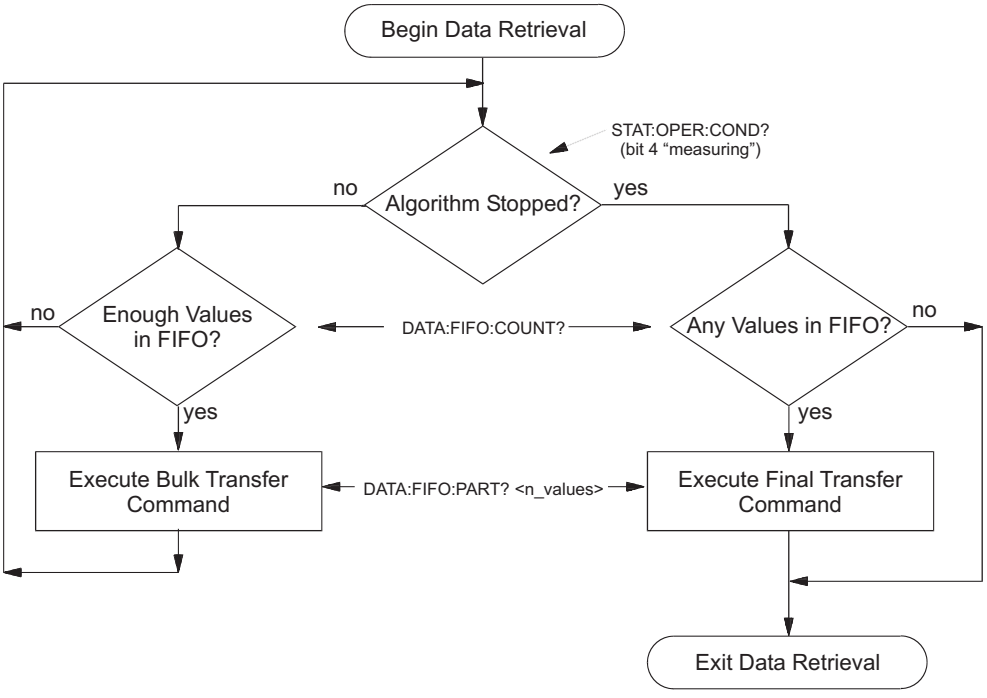


Figure 3-10: Controlling Reading Count

Here's an example command sequence for Figure 3-10. It assumes that the FIFO mode was set to BLOCK and that at least one algorithm is sending values to the FIFO.

```
    following loop reads number of values in FIFO while algorithms executing
loop while "measuring" bit is true          see STAT:OPER:COND bit 4
SENS:DATA:FIFO:COUNT?                       query for count of values in FIFO
input n_values here
if n_values >= 16384                        Sets the minimum block size to transfer
SENS:DATA:FIFO:PART? n_values               ask for n_values
input read_data here                        Format depends on FORMat cmd
end if
end while loop
    following checks for values remaining in FIFO after "measuring" false
SENS:DATA:FIFO:COUNT?                       query for values still in FIFO
input n_values here
if n_values                                 if any values…
SENS:DATA:FIFO:PART? n_values
input read_data here                        get remaining values from FIFO
end if
```

Reading the Latest FIFO Values (FIFO mode OVER)

In this mode the FIFO always contains the latest values (up to the FIFO's capacity of 65,024 values) from running algorithms. In order to read these values, the algorithms must be stopped (use ABORT). This forms a record of the algorithm's latest performance. In the OVERwrite mode, the FIFO must not be read while it is accepting data from algorithms. Algorithm execution must be stopped before an application program reads the FIFO.

Here is an example command sequence that can be used to read values from the FIFO after algorithms are stopped (ABORT sent).

```
SENS:DATA:FIFO:COUNT?                       query count of values in FIFO
input n_values here
if n_values                                 if any values…
SENS:DATA:FIFO:PART? n_values               Format of values set by FORMat
input read_data here                        get remaining values from FIFO
end of if
```

Modifying Running Algorithm Variables

Updating the Algorithm Variables and Coefficients

The values sent with the ALG:SCALAR command are kept in the Update Queue until an ALGorithm:UPDate command is received.

ALG:UPD *cause changes to take place*

Updates are performed during phase 2 of the algorithm execution cycle (see Figure 3-8 on page 80). The UPDate:WINDow <*num_updates*> command can be used to specify how many updates must be performed during phase 2 (UPDATE phase) and assigns a constant window of time to accomplish all of the updates that will be made. The default value for <*num_updates*> is 20. Fewer updates (shorter window) means slightly faster loop execution times. Each update takes approximately 1.4 μs.

To set the Update Window to allow ten updates in phase 2:

ALG:UPD:WIND 10 *allows slightly faster execution than default of twenty updates*

A way to synchronize variable updates with an external event is to send the ALGorithm:UPDate:CHANnel '<*dig_chan/bit*>' command.

- The <*dig_chan/bit*> parameter specifies the digital channel/bit that controls execution of the update operation.

When the ALG:UPD:CHAN command is received, the module checks the current state of the digital bit. When the bit next changes state, pending updates are made in the next UPDATE Phase.

ALG:UPD:CHAN 'I133.B0' *perform updates when bit zero of VT1533A at channel 133 changes state*

Enabling and Disabling Algorithms

An algorithm is enabled by default when it is defined. However, the ALG:STATe <*alg_name*>, ON | OFF command is provided to allow for enabling or disabling algorithms. When an individual algorithm is enabled, it will execute when the module is triggered. When disabled, the algorithm will not execute.

NOTE The command ALG:STATE <*alg_name*>, ON | OFF does <u>not</u> take effect until an ALG:UPDATE command is received. This allows multiple ALG:STATE commands to be sent with a synchronized effect.

To enable ALG1 and ALG2 and disable ALG3 and ALG4:

```
ALG:STATE 'ALG1',ON          enable algorithm ALG1
ALG:STATE 'ALG2',ON          enable algorithm ALG2
ALG:STATE 'ALG3',OFF         disable algorithm ALG3
ALG:STATE 'ALG4',OFF         disable algorithm ALG4
ALG:UPDATE                   changes take effect at next update phase
```

Setting Algorithm Execution Frequency

The ALGorithm:SCAN:RATio '*<alg_name>*',*<num_trigs>* command sets the number of trigger events that must occur before the next execution of algorithm *<alg_name>*. For 'ALG3' to execute only every twenty triggers, send ALG:SCAN:RATIO 'ALG3',20, followed by an ALG:UPDATE command. 'ALG3' would then execute on the first trigger after INIT, then the 21st, then the 41st, etc. This can be useful to adjust the response time of one algorithm relative to others. The *RST default for all algorithms is to execute on every trigger event.

Example Command Sequence

This example command sequence puts together all of the steps discussed so far in this chapter.

```
*RST                                        Reset the module
    Setting up Signal Conditioning (only for programmable SCPs in pos 4-7)
INPUT:FILTER:FREQUENCY 2,(@140:143)
INPUT:GAIN 64,(@140:143)
INPUT:GAIN 8,(@144:147)
    set up digital channel characteristics
INPUT:POLARITY NORM,(@156)                  (*RST default)
OUTPUT:POLARITY NORM,(@157)                 (*RST default)
OUTPUT:TYPE ACTIVE,(@157)
    link channels to EU conversions (measurement functions)
SENSE:FUNCTION:VOLTAGE AUTO,(@100:107)      (*RST default)
SENSE:REFERENCE THER,5000,AUTO,(@108)
SENSE:FUNCTION:TEMPERATURE TC,T,AUTO,(@109:123)
SENSE:REFERENCE:CHANNELS (@108),(@109:123)
    configure digital output channel for "alarm channel"
SOURCE:FUNCTION:CONDITION (@157)
    execute channel calibration
*CAL?                                       can take several minutes
    Configure the Trigger System
ARM:SOURCE IMMEDIATE                        (*RST default)
TRIGGER:COUNT INF                           (*RST default)
TRIGGER:TIMER .010                          (*RST default)
```

```
TRIGGER:SOURCE TIMER                    (*RST default)
    specify data format
FORMAT ASC,7                            (*RST default)
    select FIFO mode
SENSE:DATA:FIFO:MODE BLOCK              may read FIFO while running
    Define algorithm
ALG:DEFINE 'ALG1','static float a,b,c, div, mult, sub;
if ( First_loop )
{
a = 1; b = 2; c = 3;
writecvt( a, 10 ); writefifo( b, 11 ); writefifo( c, 12 );
}
writecvt( a / div, 13 );
writecvt( b * mult, 14 );
writecvt( c - sub, 15 );'
    Pre-set coefficients
ALG:SCAL 'ALG1','div',5
ALG:SCAL 'ALG1','mult',5
ALG:SCAL 'ALG1','sub',0
ALG:UPDATE
    initiate trigger system (start algorithm)
INITIATE

    retrieve data
SENSE:DATA:CVT? (@10:15)
```

Using the Status System

The VT1419A's Status System allows a single register (the Status Byte) to be polled quickly to see if any internal condition needs attention. Figure 3-11 shows that the three Status Groups (Operation Status, Questionable Data, and the Standard Event Groups) and the Output Queue, all send summary information to the Status Byte. By this method, the Status Byte can report many more events than its eight bits would otherwise allow. Figure 3-12 shows the Status System in detail.

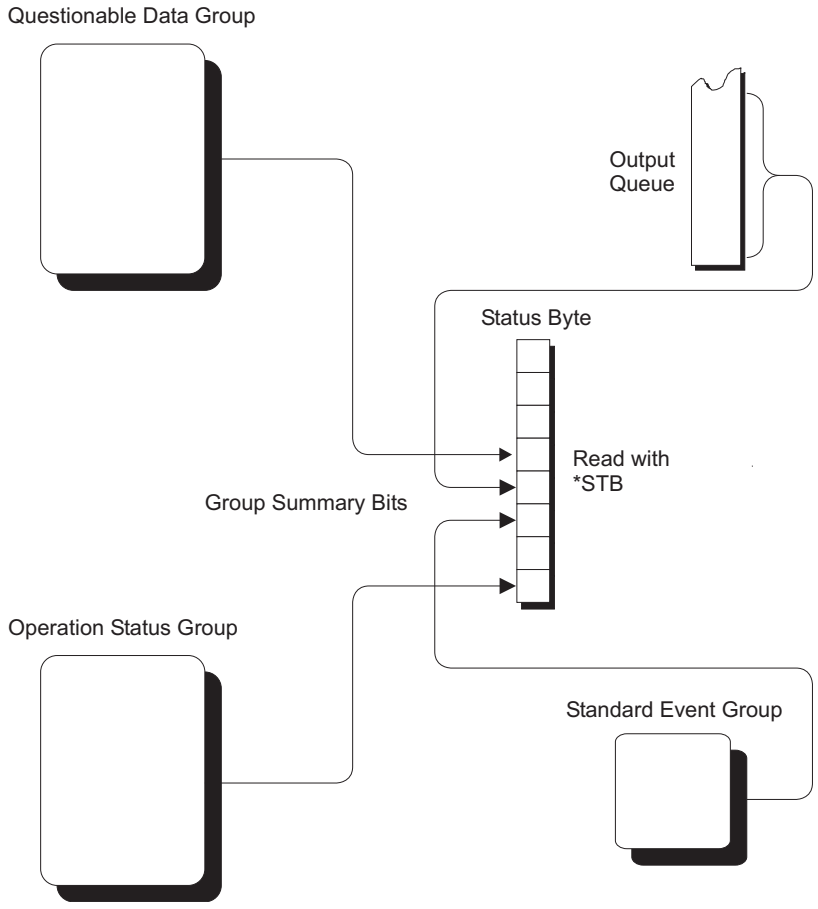


Figure 3-11: Simplified Status System Diagram

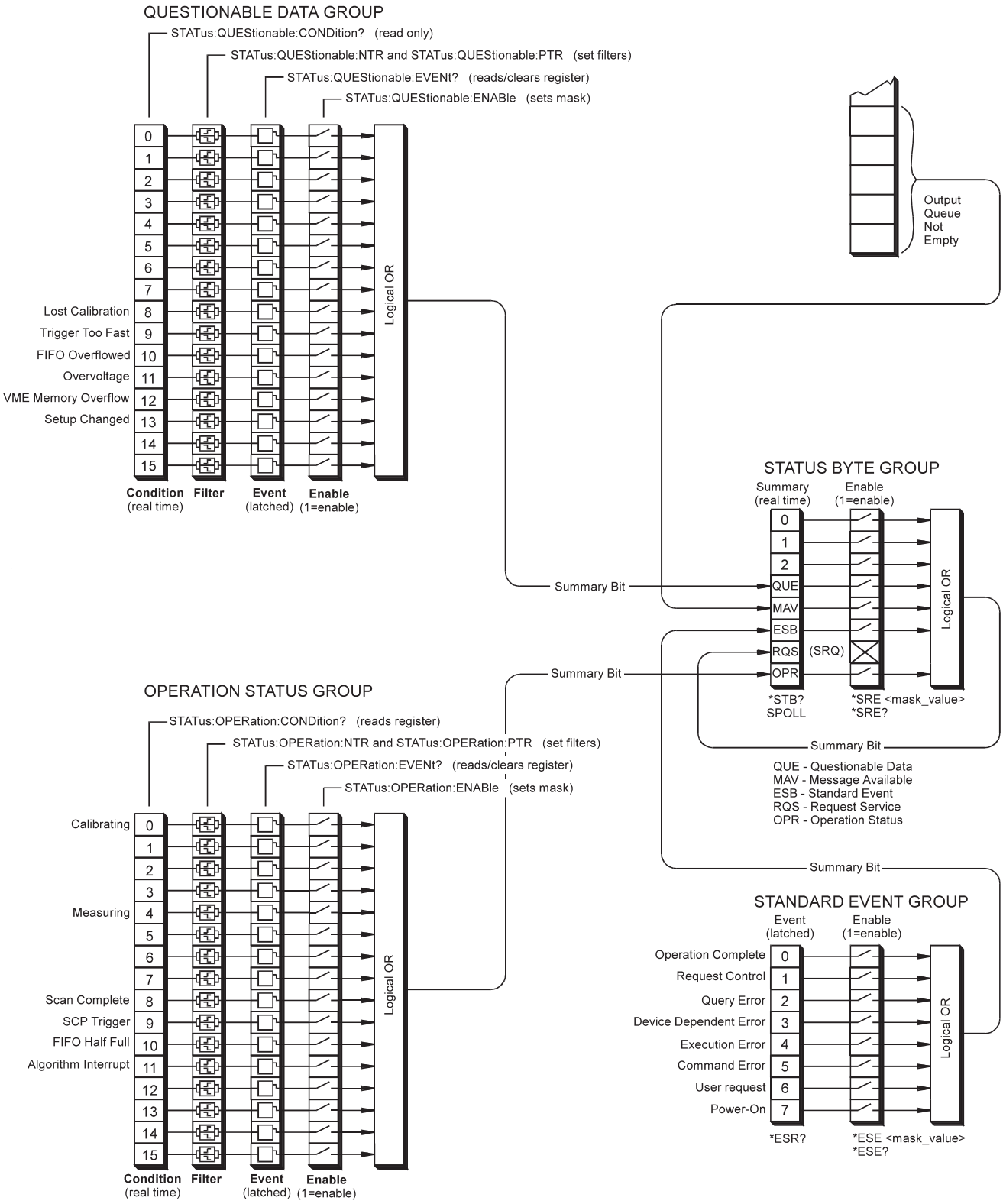


Figure 3-12: VT1419A Status System

Status Bit Descriptions

Questionable Data Group			
Bit	**Bit Value**	**Event Name**	**Description**
8	256	Lost Calibration	At *RST or Power-on Control Processor has found a checksum error in the Calibration Constants. Read error(s) with SYST:ERR? command and re-calibrate areas that lost constants.
9	512	Trigger Too Fast	Scan not complete when another trigger event received.
10	1024	FIFO Overflowed	Attempt to store more than 65,024 values in FIFO.
11	2048	Overvoltage (Detected on Input)	If the input protection jumper has not been cut, the input relays have been opened and *RST is required to reset the module. Overvoltage will also generate an error.
12	4096	VME Memory Overflow	The number of values taken exceeds VME memory space.
13	8192	Setup Changed	Channel Calibration in doubt because SCP setup may have changed since last *CAL? or CAL:SETup command. (*RST always sets this bit.)

Operation Status Group			
Bit	**Bit Value**	**Event Name**	**Description**
0	1	Calibrating	Set by CAL:TARE and CAL:SETup. Cleared by CAL:TARE? and CAL:SETup?. Set while *CAL? executing, then cleared.
4	16	Measuring	Set when instrument INITiated. Cleared when instrument returns to Trigger Idle State.
8	256	Scan Complete	Set when each pass through a Scan List is completed
9	512	SCP Trigger	Reserved for future SCPs
10	1024	FIFO Half Full	FIFO contains at least 32,768 values
11	2048	Algorithm Interrupt	The interrupt() function was called in an executing algorithm

Standard Event Group			
Bit	**Bit Value**	**Event Name**	**Description**
0	1	Operation Complete	*OPC command executed and instrument has completed all pending operations.
1	2	Request Control	Not used by VT1419A
2	4	Query Error	Attempting to read empty output queue or output data lost.
3	8	Device Dependent Error	A device dependent error occurred. See Appendix B.
4	16	Execution Error	Parameter out of range or instrument cannot execute a proper command because it would conflict with another instrument setting.
5	32	Command Error	Unrecognized command or improper parameter count or type.
6	64	User Request	Not used by VT1419A
7	128	Power-On	Power has been applied to the instrument

Enabling Events to be Reported in the Status Byte

There are two sets of registers that individual status conditions must pass through before that condition can be recorded in a group's Event Register. These are the Transition Filter Registers and the Enable registers. They provide selectivity in recording and reporting module status conditions.

Configuring the Transition Filters

Figure 3-12 shows that the Condition Register outputs are routed to the input of the Negative Transition and Positive Transition Filter Registers. For space reasons they are shown together but are controlled by individual SCPI commands. Here is the truth table for the Transition Filter Registers:

Condition Reg Bit	PTRansition Reg Bit	NTRansition Reg Bit	Event Reg Input
0→1	0	0	0
1→0	0	0	0
0→1	1	0	1
1→0	1	0	0
0→1	0	1	0
1→0	0	1	1
0→1	1	1	1
1→0	1	1	1

The Power-on default condition is: All Positive Transition Filter Register bits set to one and all Negative Transition Filter Register bits set to 0. This applies to both the Operation and Questionable Data Groups.

An Example using the Operation Group

Suppose that it is necessary for a module to report via the Status System when it had completed executing the *CAL? operation. The "Calibrating" bit (bit 0) in the Operation Condition Register goes to 1 when *CAL? is executing and returns to 0 when *CAL? is complete. In order to record only the negative transition of this bit in the STAT:OPER:EVEN register, send:

```
STAT:OPER:PTR 32766
```
All ones in Pos Trans Filter register except bit 0=0

```
STAT:OPER:NTR 1
```
All zeros in Neg Trans Filter register except bit 0=1

Now when *CAL? completes and Operation Condition Register bit zero goes from 1 to 0, Operation Event Register bit zero will become a 1.

Configuring the Enable Registers

Note in Figure 3-12 that each Status Group has an Enable Register. These control whether or not the occurrence of an individual status condition will be reported by the group's summary bit in the Status Byte.

Questionable Data Group Examples

To have only the "FIFO Overflowed" condition reported by the QUE bit (bit 3) of the Status Byte, execute:

```
STAT:QUES:ENAB 1024
```
1024=decimal value for bit 10

To have the “FIFO Overflowed” and “Setup Changed” conditions reported, execute:

STAT:QUES:ENAB 9216 — *9216=decimal sum of values for bits 10 and 13*

Operation Status Group Examples

To have only the “FIFO Half Full” condition be reported by the OPR bit (bit 7) of the Status Byte, execute:

STAT:OPER:ENAB 1024 — *1024=decimal value for bit 10*

To have the “FIFO Half Full” and “Scan Complete” conditions reported, execute:

STAT:OPER:ENAB 1280 — *1280=decimal sum of values for bits 10 and 8*

Standard Event Group Examples

To have only wanted the “Query Error”, “Execution Error,” and “Command Error” conditions reported by the ESB bit (bit 5) of the Status Byte, execute:

*ESE 52 — *52=decimal sum of values for bits 2, 4, and 5*

Reading the Status Byte

To check if any enabled events have occurred in the status system, first read the Status Byte using the *STB? command. If the Status Byte is all zeros, no summary information is being sent from any of the status groups. If the Status Byte is other than zero, one or more enabled events have occurred. Interpret the Status Byte bit values and take further action as follows:

Bit 3 (QUE) bit value 8_{10}

Read the Questionable Data Group’s Event Register using the STAT:QUES:EVENT? command. This will return bit values for events which have occurred in this group. After reading, the Event Register is cleared.

Note that bits in this group indicate error conditions. If bit 8, 9, or 10 is set, error messages will be found in the Error Queue. If bit 7 is set, error messages will be in the error queue following the next *RST or cycling of power. Use the SYST:ERR? command to read the error(s).

Bit 4 (MAV)
bit value 16_{10}

There is a message available in the Output Queue. Execute the appropriate query command.

Bit 5 (ESB)
bit value 32_{10}

Read the Standard Event Group's Event Register using the *ESR? command. This will return bit values for events which have occurred in this group. After reading, this status register is cleared.

Note that bits 2 through 5 in this group indicate error conditions. If any of these bits are set, error messages will be found in the Error Queue. Use the SYST:ERR? command to read these.

Bit 7 (OPR)
bit value 128_{10}

Read the Operation Status Group's Event Register using the STAT:OPER:EVENT? command. This will return bit values for events which have occurred in this group. After reading, the Event Register is cleared.

Clearing the Enable Registers

To clear the Enable Registers execute:

STAT:PRESET	*for Operation Status and Questionable Data Groups*
*ESE 0	*for the Standard Event Group*
*SRE 0	*for the Status Byte Group*

The Status Byte Group's Enable Register

The Enable Register for the Status Byte Group has a special purpose. Notice in Figure 3-12 how the Status Byte Summary bit wraps back around to the Status Byte. The summary bit sets the RQS (request service) bit in the Status Byte. Using this Summary bit (and those from the other status groups) the Status Byte can be polled and the RQS bit checked to determine if there are any status conditions which need attention. In this way the RQS bit is like the GPIB's SRQ (Service Request) line. The difference is that while executing a GPIB serial poll (SPOLL) releases the SRQ line, executing the *STB? command does not clear the RQS bit in the Status Byte. The Event Register must be read of the group whose summary bit is causing the RQS.

Reading Status Groups Directly

It is possible to directly poll status groups for instrument status rather than poll the Status Byte for summary information.

Reading Event Registers

The Questionable Data, Operation Status, and Standard Event Groups all have Event Registers. These Registers log the occurrence of even temporary status conditions. When read, these registers return the sum of the decimal values for the condition bits set, then are cleared to make them ready to log further events. The commands to read these Event Registers are:

STAT:QUES:EVENT?	*Questionable Data Group Event Register*
STAT:OPER:EVENT?	*Operation Status Group Event Register*
*ESR?	*Standard Event Group Event Register*

Clearing Event Registers

To clear the Event Registers without reading them execute:

*CLS	*clears all group's Event Registers*

Reading Condition Registers

The Questionable Data and Operation Status Groups each have a Condition Register. The Condition Register reflects the group's status condition in "real-time." These registers are not latched so transient events may be missed when the register is read. The commands to read these registers are:

STAT:QUES:COND?	*Questionable Data Group Condition Register*
STAT:OPER:COND?	*Operation Status Group Condition Register*

VT1419A Background Operation

The VT1419A inherently runs its algorithms and calibrations in the background mode with no interaction required from the driver. All resources needed to run the measurements are controlled by the on-board Control Processor (DSP).

The driver is required to set up the type of measurement to be run, modify algorithm variables and to unload data from the card after it appears in the CVT or FIFO. Once the INIT[:IMM] command is given, the VT1419A is initiated and all functions of the trigger system and algorithm execution are controlled by its on-board control processor. The driver returns to waiting for user commands. No interrupts are required for the VT1419A to complete its measurements.

While the module is running algorithms, the driver can be queried for its status, variables and algorithms can be accessed and data can be read from the FIFO and CVT. The ABORT command may be given to force continuous execution to complete. Any changes to the measurement set up will not be allowed until the TRIG:COUNT is reached or an ABORT command is given. Of course any commands or queries can be given to other instruments while the VT1419A is running algorithms.

Updating the Status System and VXIbus Interrupts

The driver needs to update the status system's information whenever the status of the VT1419A changes. This update is always done when the status system is accessed or when CALibrate, INITiate, or ABORt commands are executed. Most of the bits in the OPER and QUES registers represent conditions which can change while the VT1419A is measuring (initiated). In many circumstances it is sufficient to have the status system bits updated the next time the status system is accessed or the INIT or ABORt commands are given. When it is desired to have the status system bits updated closer in time to when the condition changes on the VT1419A, the VT1419A interrupts can be used.

The VT1419A can send VXI interrupts upon the following conditions:

- Trigger too Fast condition is detected. Trigger comes prior to trigger system being ready to receive trigger.
- FIFO overflowed. In either FIFO mode, data was received after the FIFO was full.
- Overvoltage detection on input. If the input protection jumper has not been cut, the input relays have all been opened and a *RST is required to reset the VT1419A.
- Scan complete. The VT1419A has finished a scan list.
- SCP trigger. A trigger was received from an SCP.
- FIFO half full. The FIFO contains at least 32768 values.
- Measurement complete. The trigger system exited the "Wait-For-Arm." This clears the Measuring bit in the OPER register.
- Algorithm executes an "interrupt()" statement.

These VT1419A interrupts are not always enabled since, under some circumstances, this could be detrimental to the users system operation. For example, the Scan Complete, SCP triggers, FIFO half full, and Measurement complete interrupts could come repetitively, at rates that would cause the operating system to be swamped processing interrupts. These conditions are dependent upon the user's overall system design, therefore the driver allows the user to decide which, if any, interrupts will be enabled.

The way the user controls which interrupts will be enabled is via the *OPC, STATUS:OPER/QUES:ENABLE, and STAT:PRESET commands.

Each of the interrupting conditions listed above, has a corresponding bit in the QUES or OPER registers. If that bit is enabled via the STATus:OPER/QUES:ENABle command to be a part of the group summary bit, it will also enable the VT1419A interrupt for that condition. If that bit is not enabled, the corresponding interrupt will be disabled.

Note Once a status driven condition sets an enabled bit in one of the Event registers, that Event register must be read (STAT:OPER:EVENT? or STAT:QUES:EVENT?) in order to clear the register and prevent further interrupts from occurring.

Sending the STAT:PRESET will disable all the interrupts from the VT1419A.

Sending the *OPC command will enable the measurement complete interrupt. Once this interrupt is received and the OPC condition sent to the status system, this interrupt will be disabled if it was not previously enabled via the STATUS:OPER/QUES:ENABLE command.

Note for C-SCPI and SICL

The above description is always true for a downloaded driver. In the C-SCPI driver, however, the interrupts will only be enabled if **cscpi_overlap** mode is ON when the enable command is given. If **cscpi_overlap** is OFF, the user indicates that interrupts are not to be enabled. Any subsequent changes to **cscpi_overlap** will not change which interrupts are enabled. Only sending *OPC or STAT:OPER/QUES:ENAB with **cscpi_overlap** ON will enable interrupts. In addition the user can enable or disable all interrupts via the SICL calls, **iintron()** and **iintroff()**.

Creating and Loading Custom EU Conversion Tables

The VT1419A provides for loading custom EU conversion tables. This allows for the on-board conversion of transducers not otherwise supported by the VT1419A.

Standard EU Operation

The EU conversion tables built into the VT1419A are stored in a “library” in the module’s non-volatile flash memory. When a specific channel is linked to a standard EU conversion using the [SENSe:]FUNC:… command, the module copies that table from the library to a segment of RAM allocated to the specified channel. When a single EU conversion is specified for multiple channels, multiple copies of that conversion table are put in RAM; one copy into each channel’s Table RAM Segment. The conversion table-per-channel arrangement allows higher speed scanning since the table is already loaded and ready to use when the channel is scanned.

Custom EU Operation

Custom EU conversion tables are loaded directly into a channel’s Table RAM Segment using the DIAG:CUST:LIN and DIAG:CUST:PIEC commands. The DIAG:CUST:… commands can specify multiple channels. To “link” custom conversions to their tables, execute the [SENSe:]FUNC:CUST *<range>*,(@*<ch_list>*) command. Unlike standard EU conversions, the custom EU conversions are already linked to their channels (tables loaded) before the [SENSe:]FUNC:CUST command is executed but the command allows the A/D range for these channels to be specified.

NOTE

The *RST command clears all channel Table RAM segments. Custom EU conversion tables must be re-loaded using the DIAG:CUST:… commands.

Custom EU Tables

The VT1419A uses two types of EU conversion tables, linear and piecewise. The linear table describes the transducer’s response slope and offset (y=m*x*+b). The piecewise conversion table gets its name because it is actually an approximation of

the transducer's response curve in the form of 512 linear segments whose end-points fall on the curve. Data points that fall between the end-points are linearly interpolated. The built-in EU conversions for thermistors, thermocouples, and RTDs use this type of table.

Custom Thermocouple EU Conversions

The VT1419A can measure temperature using custom characterized thermocouple wire of types E, J, K, N, R, S, and T. The custom EU table generated for the individual batch of thermocouple wire is loaded to the appropriate channels using the DIAG:CUST:PIEC command (see the Agilent VEE example "*eu_1419.vee*"). Since thermocouple EU conversion requires a "reference junction compensation" of the raw thermocouple voltage, the custom EU table is linked to the channel(s) using the command [SENSe:]FUNCtion:CUSTom:TCouple <*type*>[,<*range*>],(@<*ch_list*>).

The <*type*> parameter specifies the type of thermocouple wire so that the correct built-in table will be used for reference junction compensation. Reference junction compensation is based on the reference junction temperature at the time the custom channel is measured. For more information see Thermocouple Reference Temperature Compensation on page 62.

Custom Reference Temperature EU Conversions

The VT1419A can measure reference junction temperatures using custom characterized RTDs and thermistors. The custom EU table generated for the individually characterized transducer is loaded to the appropriate channel(s) using the DIAG:CUST:PIEC command (see the Agilent VEE example "*eu_1419.vee*"). Since the EU conversion from this custom EU table is to be considered the "reference junction temperature", the channel is linked to this EU table using the command [SENSe:]FUNCtion:CUSTom:REFerence [<*range*>,](@<*ch_list*>).

This command uses the custom EU conversion to generate the reference junction temperature as explained in the section Thermocouple Reference Temperature Compensation on page 62.

Creating Conversion Tables

The VT1419A comes with an Agilent VEE example program that can be used to generate custom EU tables. See the "*eu_1419.vee*" example in Chapter 5 for more information.

Summary

The following points describe the capabilities of custom EU conversion:

- A given channel only has a single active EU conversion table assigned to it. Changing tables requires loading it with a DIAG:CUST:… command.
- The limit on the number of different custom EU tables that can be loaded in a VT1419A is the same as the number of channels.
- Custom tables can provide the same level of accuracy as the built-in tables. In fact the built-in resistance function uses a linear conversion table and the built -in temperature functions use the piecewise conversion table.

Compensating for System Offsets

System Wiring Offsets

The VT1419A can compensate for offsets in a system's field wiring. Apply shorts to channels at the Unit-Under-Test (UUT) end of the field wiring and then execute the CAL:TARE (@<*ch_list*>) command. The instrument will measure the voltage

at each channel in <*ch_list*> and save those values in RAM as channel Tare constants.

Important Note for Thermocouples

- Do not use CAL:TARE on field wiring that is made up of thermocouple wire. The voltage that a thermocouple wire pair generates cannot be removed by introducing a short anywhere between its junction and its connection to an isothermal panel (either the VT1419A's Terminal Module or a remote isothermal reference block). Thermal voltage is generated along the entire length of a thermocouple pair where there is any temperature gradient along that length. To CAL:TARE thermocouple wire this way would introduce an unwanted offset in the voltage/temperature relationship for that thermocouple. If a thermocouple wire pair is inadvertently "CAL:TARE'd," see "Resetting CAL:TARE" on page 99.
- Do use CAL:TARE to compensate wiring offsets (copper wire, not thermocouple wire) between the VT1419A and a remote thermocouple reference block. Disconnect the thermocouples and introduce copper shorting wires between each channel's HI and LO, then execute CAL:TARE for these channels.

Residual Sensor Offsets

To remove offsets like those in an unstrained strain gage bridge, execute the CAL:TARE command on those channels. The module will then measure the offsets and as in the wiring case above, remove these offsets from future measurements. In the strain gage case, this "balances the bridge" so all measurements have the initial unstrained offset removed to allow the most accurate high speed measurements possible.

Operation

After CAL:TARE <*ch_list*> measures and stores the offset voltages, it then performs the equivalent of a *CAL? operation. This operation uses the Tare constants to set a DAC which will remove each channel offset as "seen" by the module's A/D converter.

The absolute voltage level that CAL:TARE can remove is dependent on the A/D range. CAL:TARE will choose the lowest range that can handle the existing offset voltage. The range that CAL:TARE chooses will become the lowest usable range (range floor) for that channel. For any channel that has been "CAL:TARE'd" Autorange will not go below that range floor and selecting a manual range below the range floor will return an Overload value (see table on page 230).

As an example assume that the system wiring to channel 0 generates a +0.1 volts offset with 0 volts (a short) applied at the UUT. Before CAL:TARE the module would return a reading of 0.1 volts for channel 0. After CAL:TARE (@100), the module will return a reading of 0 volts with a short applied at the UUT and the system wiring offset will be removed from all measurements of the signal to channel 0. Think of the signal applied to the instrument's channel input as the *gross* signal value. CAL:TARE removes the *tare* portion leaving only the *net* signal value.

Because of settling times, especially on filtered channels, CAL:TARE can take a number of minutes to execute.

The tare calibration constants created during CAL:TARE are stored in and are usable from the instrument's RAM. To store the Tare constants in non-volatile flash memory, execute the CAL:STORE TARE command.

NOTE The VT1419A's flash memory has a finite lifetime of approximately ten thousand write cycles (unlimited read cycles). While executing CAL:STOR once every day would not exceed the lifetime of the flash memory for approximately 27 years, an application that stored constants many times each day would unnecessarily shorten the flash memory's lifetime.

Resetting CAL:TARE

To "undo" the CAL:TARE operation, execute CAL:TARE:RESet then *CAL?/CAL:SET. If current Tare calibration constants have been stored in flash memory, execute CAL:TARE:RESET, then CAL:STORE TARE.

Special Considerations

Here are some things to keep in mind when using CAL:TARE.

Maximum Tare Capability

The tare value that can be compensated for is dependent on the instrument range and SCP channel gain settings. The following table lists these limits:

Maximum CAL:TARE Offsets

A/D range ± V F.Scale	Offset V Gain x1	Offset V Gain x8	Offset V Gain x16	Offset V Gain x64
16	3.2213	0.40104	0.20009	0.04970
4	0.82101	0.10101	0.05007	0.01220
1	0.23061	0.02721	0.01317	0.00297
0.25	0.07581	0.00786	0.00349	0.00055
0.0625	0.03792	0.00312	0.00112	N/A

Changing Gains or Filters

To change a channel's SCP setup after a CAL:TARE operation, a *CAL? operation must be performed to generate new DAC constants and the "range floor" reset for the stored Tare value. The tare capability of the range/gain setup that is to be used must also be considered. For instance, if the actual offset present is 0.6 volts and was "Tared" for a 4 volt range/Gain x1 setup, moving to a 1 volt range/Gain x1 setup will return Overload values for that channel since the 1 volt range is below the range floor as set by CAL:TARE. See table on page 230 for more on values returned for Overload readings.

Unexpected Channel Offsets or Overloads

This can occur when the VT1419A's flash memory contains CAL:TARE offset constants that are no longer appropriate for its current application. Execute CAL:TARE:RESET then *CAL? to reset the tare constants in RAM. Measure the affected channels again. If the problems go away, reset the tare constants in flash memory by executing CAL:STORE TARE.

Detecting Open Transducers

Most of the VT1419A's analog input SCPs provide a method to detect open transducers. When Open Transducer Detect (OTD) is enabled, the SCP injects a small current into the HIGH and LOW input of each channel. The polarity of the current pulls the HIGH inputs toward +17 volts and the LOW inputs towards -17 volts. If a transducer is open, measuring that channel will return an over-voltage reading. OTD is available on a per SCP basis. All eight channels of an SCP are enabled or disabled together. See Figure 3-13 for a simplified schematic diagram of the OTD circuit.

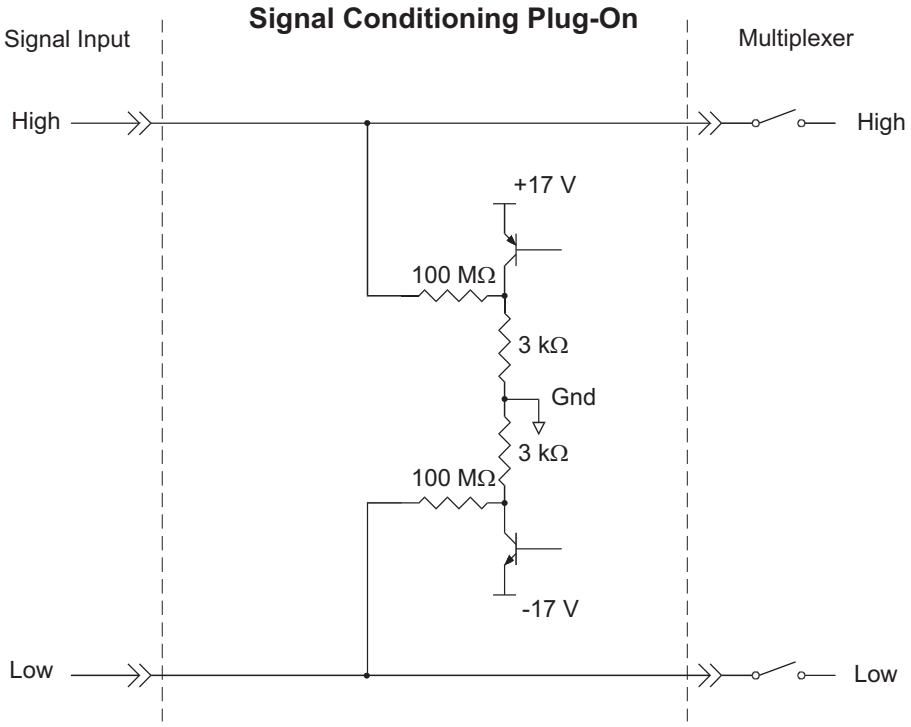


Figure 3-13: Simplified Open Transducer Circuit

NOTES

1) When OTD is enabled, the inputs have up to 0.2 μA injected into them. If this current will adversely affect the measurement, but checking for open transducers is still required, enable OTD, run the algorithms, check analog input variables for measurement values that indicate an open transducer, then disable OTD and run the algorithms without it. The VT1419A's accuracy specifications apply only when OTD is off.

2) When a channel's SCP filtering is enabled, allow fifteen seconds after turning on OTD for the filters capacitors to charge before checking for open transducers.

To enable or disable Open Transducer Detection, use the DIAGnostic:OTDetect <*enable*>, (@<*ch_list*>) command.

- The <*enable*> parameter can specify ON or OFF
- An SCP is addressed when the <*ch_list*> parameter specifies a channel number contained on the SCP. The first channel on each SCP is:
  0, 8, 16, 24, 32, 40, 48, and 56

To enable Open Transducer Detection on all channels on SCPs 1 and 3:

```
DIAG:OTD ON, (@100,116)          0 is on SCP 1 and 16 is on SCP3
```

To disable Open Transducer Detection on all channels on SCPs 1 and 3:

```
DIAG:OTD OFF, (@100,116)
```

More On Auto Ranging

There are rare circumstances where an input signal can be difficult for the VT1419A to auto range correctly. The module completes the range selection based on the input signal about 6 μs before the actual measurement is made on that channel. If during that period the signal becomes greater than the selected range can handle, the module will return an overflow reading (±INFinity).

The only solution to this problem is to use manual range on channels that display this behavior.

Settling Characteristics

Some sequences of input signals as determined by their order of appearance in a scan list can be a challenge to measure accurately. This section is intended to help determine if a system presents any of these problems and how best to eliminate them or reduce their affect.

Background

While the VT1419A can auto-range, measure and convert a reading to engineering units as fast as once every 10 μs, measuring a high level signal followed by a very low level signal may require some extra settling time. As seen from the point of view of the VT1419A's Analog-to-Digital converter and its Range Amplifier, this situation is the most difficult to measure. For example, look at two consecutive channels; the first measures a power supply at 15.5 volts, the next measures a thermocouple temperature. First the input to the Range Amplifier is at 15.5 volts (near its maximum) with any stray capacitances charged accordingly, then it immediately is switched to a thermocouple channel and down-ranged to its 0.0625 volt range. On this range, the resolution is now 1.91 μV per Least Significant Bit (LSB). Because of this sensitivity, the time to discharge these stray capacitances may have to be considered.

Thus far in the discussion, it has been assumed that the low-level channel measured after a high-level channel has presented a low impedance path to discharge the A/D's stray capacitances (path was the thermocouple wire). The combination of a resistance measurement through a VT1501A Direct Input SCP presents a much higher impedance path. A very common measurement like this would be the temperature of a thermistor. If measured through a Direct Input SCP, the source impedance of the measurement is essentially the value of the thermistor (the output impedance of the current source is in the gigaohm region). Even though this is a higher level measurement than the previous example, the settling time can be even longer due to the slower discharge of the stray capacitances. The simple answer here is to always use an SCP that presents a low impedance buffered output to the VT1419A's Range Amp and A/D. The VT1503A, 08A, 09A, 10A, 12A, and 14A through 17A SCPs all provide this capability.

Checking for Problems

The method used to quickly determine if any system channels need more settling time is to simply apply some settling time to every channel. Use this procedure:

1. First, run the system to make a record of its current measurement performance.
2. Then, use the SAMPle:TIMer command to add a significant settling delay to every measurement in the scan list. Take care that the sample time multiplied by the number of channels in the scan list doesn't exceed the time between triggers.
3. Now, run the system and look primarily for low level channel measurements (like thermocouples) whose dc value changes somewhat. If channels are found that respond to this increase in sample period, it may be noticed that these channels are returning slightly quieter measurements as well. The extra sample period reduces or removes the affected channels coupling to the value of the channel measured just before it.
4. If some improvement is seen, increase the sample period again and perform another test. When the sample period is increased and no improvement is seen, the maximum settling delay has been found that any single channel requires.
5. If the quality of the measurements does not respond to this increase in sample period, then inadequate settling time is not likely to be causing measurement problems.

Fixing the Problem

If the system scans fast enough with the increased sample period, the problem is solved. The system is only running as fast as the slowest channel allows but, if it's fast enough, that's OK. If on the other hand, getting quality readings has slowed the scan rate too much, there are two other methods that will, either separately or in combination, have the system making good measurements as fast as possible.

Use Amplifier SCPs

Amplifier SCPs can remove the need to increase settling delays. How? Each gain factor of four provided by the SCP amplifier allows the Range Amplifier to be set one range higher and still provide the same measurement resolution. Amplifier SCPs for the VT1419A are available with gains of 0.5, 8, 16, 64, and 512. Return now to the earlier difficult measurement example of a where one channel is measuring 15.5 volts on the 16 volt range and the next a thermocouple on the 0.0625 range. If the thermocouple channel is amplified through an SCP with a gain of 16, the Range Amplifier can be set to the 1 volt range. On this range the A/D

resolution drops to around 31 μV per LSB so the stray capacitances discharging after the 15.5 volt measurement are now only one sixteenth as significant and thus reduce any required settling delay. Of course for most thermocouple measurements a gain of 64 can be used with the Range Amplifier set to the 4 volt range. At this setting the A/D resolution for one LSB drops to about 122 μV and further reduces or removes any need for additional settling delay. This improvement is accomplished without any reduction of the overall measurement resolution.

NOTE

Filter-amplifier SCPs can provide improvements in low-level signal measurements that go beyond just settling delay reduction. Amplifying the input signal at the SCP allows using less gain at the Range Amplifier (higher range) for the same measurement resolution. Since the Range Amplifier has to track signal level changes (from the multiplexer) at up to 100 kHz, its bandwidth must be much higher than the bandwidth of individual filter-amplifier SCP channels. Using higher SCP gain along with lower Range Amplifier gain can significantly increase normal-mode noise rejection.

Adding Settling Delay for Specific Channels

This method adds settling time only to individual problem measurements as opposed to the SAMPle:TIMer command that introduces extra time for all analog input channels. If problems are seen on only a few channels, use the SENS:CHAN:SETTLING <*num_samples*>,(@<*ch_list*>) command to add extra settling time for just these problem channels. What SENS:CHAN:SETTLING does is instructs the VT1419A to replace single instances of a channel in the Scan List with multiple repeat instances of that channel if it is specified in (@<*ch_list*>). The number of repeats is set by <*num_samples*>.

Example:

Normal Scan List:
100, 101, 102, 103, 104

Scan List after SENS:CHAN:SETT 3,(@100,103)
100, 100, 100, 101, 102, 103, 103, 103, 104

When the algorithms are run, channels 0 and 3 will be sampled three times and the final value from each will be sent to the Channel Input Buffer. This provides extra settling time while channels 1, 2, and 4 are measured in a single sample period and their values also sent to the Channel Input Buffer.

Chapter 4
The Algorithm Language and Environment

Learning Hint

This chapter builds upon the "VT1419A Programming Model" information presented in Chapter 3. Read that section before moving on to this one.

About This Chapter

This chapter describes how to write algorithms that apply the VT1419A's measurement, calculation, and control resources. It describes these resources and how they can be accessed with the VT1419A's Algorithm Language. This manual assumes that the user already has programming experience, ideally, in the 'C' programming language, as the VT1419A's Algorithm Language is based on 'C.' Following the tutorial sections of this chapter is an Algorithm Language Reference. The contents of this chapter are:

- Overview of the Algorithm Language . . . . . page 106
- The Algorithm Execution Environment . . . . . page 108
- Accessing the VT1419A's Resources . . . . . page 109
  - Accessing I/O Channels . . . . . page 110
  - Defining and Accessing Global Variables . . . . . page 111
  - Determining First Execution . . . . . page 111
  - Initializing Variables . . . . . page 112
  - Sending Data to the CVT and FIFO . . . . . page 112
  - Setting a VXIbus Interrupt . . . . . page 113
  - Calling User Defined Functions . . . . . page 114
- Operating Sequence . . . . . page 114
- Defining Algorithms (ALG:DEF) . . . . . page 116
- A Very Simple First Algorithm . . . . . page 120
- Non Control Algorithms . . . . . page 121
  - Data Acquisition Algorithm . . . . . page 121
  - Process Monitoring Algorithm . . . . . page 121
- Algorithm Language Reference . . . . . page 122
  - Standard Reserved Keywords . . . . . page 122
  - Special VT1419A Reserved Keywords . . . . . page 122
  - Identifiers . . . . . page 122
  - Special Identifiers for Channels . . . . . page 123
  - Operators . . . . . page 123
  - Intrinsic Functions and Statements . . . . . page 124
  - Program Flow Control . . . . . page 124
  - Data Types . . . . . page 125
  - Data Structures . . . . . page 126
  - Type Float as Integer . . . . . page 127
  - Bitfield Access . . . . . page 127
- Language Syntax Summary . . . . . page 129
- Program Structure and Syntax . . . . . page 133

Overview of the Algorithm Language

The VT1419A's Algorithm Language is a limited version of the 'C' programming language. It is designed to provide the necessary control constructs and algebraic operations to support measurement and control algorithms. There are no loop constructs, multi-dimensional arrays, or transcendental functions. Further, an algorithm must be completely contained within a single function subprogram 'ALGn.' The algorithm can not call another user-written function subprogram.

It is important to note that, while the VT1419A's Algorithm Language has a limited set of intrinsic arithmetic operators, it also provides the capability to call special user defined functions "f(*x*)." The Agilent VEE example programs "*fn_1419.vee*" and "*eufn1419.vee*" in Chapter 5 will convert functions into piece-wise linear interpolated tables and give them user defined names. The VT1419A can extract function values from these tables in under 18 μs regardless of the function's original complexity. This method provides faster algorithm execution by moving the complex math operations off-board.

This section assumes that the user already programs in some language. If already programming in the 'C' language, this chapter is probably all that will be needed to create algorithms. If unfamiliar with the C programming language, study the "Program Structure and Syntax" section before beginning to write custom algorithms.

This section will present a quick look at the Algorithm Language. The complete language reference is provided later in this chapter.

Arithmetic Operators add **+**, subtract **–**, multiply *****, divide **/**
NOTE: Also see "Calling User Defined Functions" on page 114.

Assignment Operator: =

Comparison Functions less than **<**, less than or equal **<=**, greater than **>**, greater than or equal **>=**, equal to **==**, not equal to **!=**

Boolean Functions: and **&&** or **||**, not **!**

Variables scalars of type **`static float`**, and single dimensioned arrays of type **`static float`** limited to 1024 elements.

Constants

32-bit decimal integer; **`Dddd...`** where **`D`** and **`d`** are decimal digits but **`D`** is not zero. No decimal point or exponent specified.
32-bit octal integer; **`0oo...`** where **`0`** is a leading zero and **`o`** is an octal digit. No decimal point or exponent specified.
32-bit hexadecimal integer; **`0Xhhh...`** or **`0xhhh...`** where **`h`** is a hex digit.
32-bit floating point; **`ddd.`**, **`ddd.ddd`**, **`ddde±dd`**, **`dddE±dd`**, **`ddd.dddedd`** or **`ddd.dddEdd`** where d is a decimal digit.

Flow Control conditional construct **`if(){ } else { }`**

Intrinsic Functions

Return absulute value; **`abs(<`***expr1***`>)`**
Return minimum; **`min(<`***expr1***`>,<`***expr2***`>)`**
Return maximum; **`max(<`***expr1***`>,<`***expr2***`>)`**
User defined function; **`<`***user_name***`>(<`***expr***`>)`**
Write value to CVT element; **`writecvt(<`***expr***`>,<`***expr***`>)`**
Write value to FIFO buffer; **`writefifo(<`***expr***`>)`**
Write value to both CVT and FIFO; **`writeboth(<`***expr***`>,<`***expr***`>)`**

Example Language Usage

Here are examples of some Algorithm Language elements assembled to show how they are used in context. Later sections will explain any unfamiliar elements seen here:

Example 1

```
/*** get input from channel 8, calculate output, check limits, output to ch 40 & 41
***/

static float output_max = .020;          /* 20 mA max output */
static float output_min = .004;          /* 4 mA min output */
static float input_val, output_val;      /* intermediate I/O vars */

input val_ = I108;                       /* get value from input buffer channel 8*/
output_val = 12.5 * input_val;           /* calculate desired output */
if ( output_val > output_max )           /* check output greater than limit */
      output_val = output_max;           /* if so, output max limit */
else if( output_val < output_min)        /* check output less than limit */
      output_val = output_min;           /* if so, output min limit */
O140 = output_val / 2;                   /* split output_val between two SCP  */
O141 = output_val / 2;                   /* channels to get up to 20 mA max    */
```

Example 2

```
/*** same function as example 1 above but shows a different approach ***/
static float max_output = .020;          /* 20 mA max output */
static float min_output = .004;          /* 4 mA min output */

/* following lines input, limit output between min and max_output and outputs.    */
/* output is split to two current output channels wired in parallel to provide 20 mA */
O140 = max( min_output, min( max_output, (12.5 * I108) / 2 ) );
O141 = max( min_output, min( max_output, (12.5 * I108) / 2 ) );
```

The Algorithm Execution Environment

This section describes the execution environment that the VT1419A provides for algorithms. Here the relationship between an algorithm and the **main()** function that calls it is described.

The Main Function

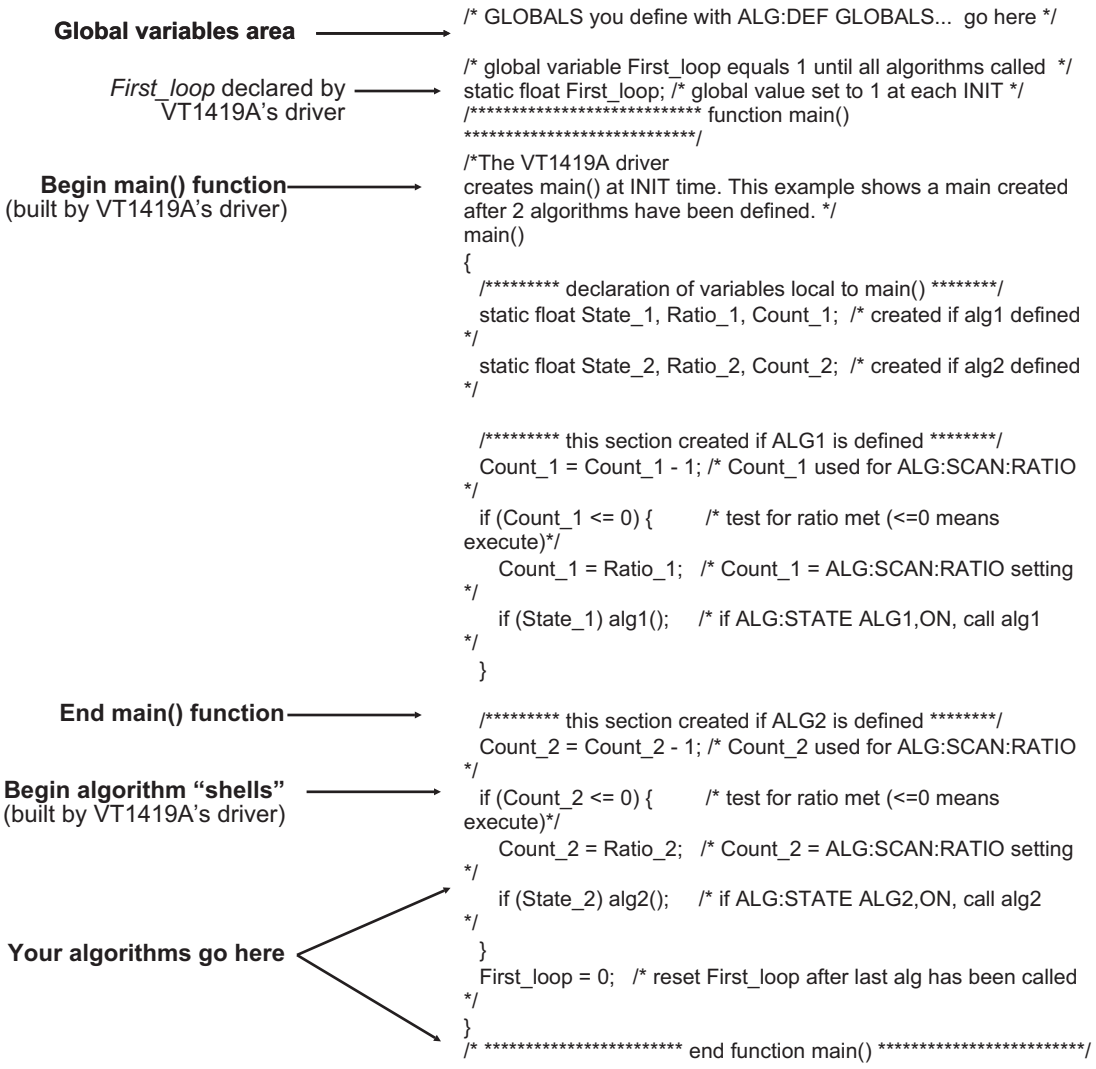
All ‘C’ language programs consist of one or more functions. A ‘C’ program must have a function called **main()**. In the VT1419A, the **main()** function is usually generated automatically by the driver when the INIT command is executed. The **main()** function executes each time the module is triggered and controls execution of an algorithm's functions. See Figure 4-1 for a partial listing of **main()**.

How User Algorithms Fit In

When the module is INITiated, a set of control variables and a function calling sequence is created for all algorithms defined. The value of variable “State_n” is set with the ALGorithm:STATe command and determines whether the algorithm will be called. The value of “Ratio_n” is set with the ALGorithm:SCAN:RATio command and determines how often the algorithm will be called (relative to trigger events).

Since the function-calling interface to an algorithm is fixed in the main() function, the “header” of an algorithm function is also pre-defined. This means that, unlike standard ‘C’ language programming, an algorithm program (a function) need not (must not) include the function declaration header, opening brace “{” and closing brace “}.” Simply supply the “body” of the function; the VT1419A’s driver supplies the rest.

Think of the program space in the VT1419A in the form of a source file with any global variables first, then the main() function followed by as many algorithms as have been defined. Of course, what is really contained in the VT1419A’s algorithm memory are executable codes that have been translated from the downloaded source code. While not an exact representation of the algorithm execution environment, Figure 4-1 shows the relationship between a normal ‘C’ program and two VT1419A algorithms.


Global variables area
First_loop declared by VT1419A's driver
Begin main() function (built by VT1419A's driver)
End main() function
Begin algorithm "shells" (built by VT1419A's driver)
Your algorithms go here

```
/* GLOBALS you define with ALG:DEF GLOBALS...  go here */

/* global variable First_loop equals 1 until all algorithms called  */
static float First_loop; /* global value set to 1 at each INIT */
/*************************** function main()
*****************************/
/*The VT1419A driver
creates main() at INIT time. This example shows a main created
after 2 algorithms have been defined. */
main()
{
  /********* declaration of variables local to main() ********/
  static float State_1, Ratio_1, Count_1;  /* created if alg1 defined
*/
  static float State_2, Ratio_2, Count_2;  /* created if alg2 defined
*/

  /********* this section created if ALG1 is defined ********/
  Count_1 = Count_1 - 1; /* Count_1 used for ALG:SCAN:RATIO
*/
  if (Count_1 <= 0) {         /* test for ratio met (<=0 means
execute)*/
     Count_1 = Ratio_1;   /* Count_1 = ALG:SCAN:RATIO setting
*/
     if (State_1) alg1();     /* if ALG:STATE ALG1,ON, call alg1
*/
  }

  /********* this section created if ALG2 is defined ********/
  Count_2 = Count_2 - 1; /* Count_2 used for ALG:SCAN:RATIO
*/
  if (Count_2 <= 0) {         /* test for ratio met (<=0 means
execute)*/
     Count_2 = Ratio_2;   /* Count_2 = ALG:SCAN:RATIO setting
*/
     if (State_2) alg2();     /* if ALG:STATE ALG2,ON, call alg2
*/
  }
  First_loop = 0;   /* reset First_loop after last alg has been called
*/
}
/* ************************ end function main() ************************/
```

Figure 4-1: Source Listing of Function main()

Accessing the VT1419A's Resources

This section describes how an algorithm accesses hardware and software resources provided by the VT1419A. The following is a list of these resources:

- I/O channels.
- Global variables defined before the algorithm is defined.
- The value ALG_NUM which the VT1419A makes available to the algorithm. ALG_NUM = 1 for ALG1, 2 for ALG2, etc.
- User defined functions defined with the ALG:FUNC:DEF command.
- The Current Value Table (CVT) and the data FIFO buffer (FIFO) to output algorithm data to an application program.
- VXIbus Interrupts.

Accessing I/O Channels

In the Algorithm Language, channels are referenced as pre-defined variable identifiers. The general channel identifier syntax is "Iccc" for input channels and "Occc" for output channels; where ccc is a channel number between 100 (channel 0) and 163 (channel 63), inclusive. Like all VT1419A variables, channel identifier variables always contain 32-bit floating point values even when the channel is part of a digital I/O SCP. If the digital I/O SCP has 8-bit channels (like the VT1533A), the channel's identifiers (Occc and Iccc) can take on the values 0 through 255. To access individual bit values, append ".Bn" to the normal channel syntax; where n is the bit number (0 through 7). If the Digital I/O SCP has single-bit channels (like the VT1534A), its channel identifiers can only take on the values 0 and 1. Examples:

O148 = 1;	*assign value to output chan 0 on VT1534A.*
Inp_val = I160;	*from 8-bit channel on VT1533A Inp_val will be 0 to 255.*
Bit_4 = I156.B4;	*assign VT1533A chan 56 bit 4 to variable Bit_4*

Output Channels

Output channels can appear on either or both sides of an assignment operator. They can appear anywhere other variables can appear. Examples:

O132= 12.5;	*send value to output channel buffer element 0*
O156.B4 = ! O156.B4;	*compliment value found in output channel buffer element 56, bit 4 each time algorithm is executed.*
writecvt(O132,32);	*send value of output channel 132 to CVT element 32*

Input Channels

Input channel identifiers can only appear on the right side of assignment operators. It doesn't make sense to output values to an input channel. Other than that, they can appear anywhere other variables can appear. Examples:

dig_bit_value = I157.B0;	*retrieve value from Input Channel Buffer element 57, bit 0*
inp_value = I124;	*retrieve value from Input Channel Buffer element 24*
O132 = 4 * I124;	*retrieve value from Input Channel Buffer element 24, multiply by 4 and send result to Output Channel Buffer element 32*
writefifo(I124);	*send value of input channel 24 to FIFO buffer*

Defined Input and Output Channels

An algorithm "references" channels. It can reference input or output channels. But, in order for these channels to be available to the algorithm, they must be "defined." To be "defined," an SCP must be installed and an appropriate SOURce or SENSe:FUNCtion must explicitly (or implicitly, in the case of VT1531A/32A and VT1536A SCPs) be tied to the channels. If an algorithm references an input channel identifier that is not configured as an input channel or an output channel identifier that is not configured as an output channel, the driver may generate an error when the algorithm is defined with ALG:DEF.

Defining and Accessing Global Variables

Global variables are those declared outside of the **main()** function and any algorithms (see Figure 4-1). A global variable can be read or changed by any algorithm. To declare global variables, use the command:

ALG:DEF 'GLOBALS','<*source_code*>'

where <*source_code*> is Algorithm Language source limited to constructs for declaring variables. It must not contain executable statements. Examples:

declare single variable without assignment;

ALG:DEF 'GLOBALS','static float glob_scal_var;'

declare single variable with assignment;

ALG:DEF 'GLOBALS','static float glob_scal_var = 22.53;'

declare one scalar variable and one array variable;

ALG:DEF 'GLOBALS','static float glob_scal_var, glob_array_var[12];'

Global variables are accessed within an algorithm like any other variable.

glob_scal_var = P_factor * I108;

NOTES

1. All variables must be declared `static float`.
2. Array variables cannot be assigned a value when declared.
3. All variables declared within an algorithm are local to that algorithm. If a variable is locally declared with the same identifier as an existing global variable, the algorithm will access the local variable only.

Determining First Execution (First_loop)

The VT1419A always declares the global variable *First_loop*. *First_loop* is set to 1 each time INIT is executed. After **main()** calls all enabled algorithms, it sets *First_loop* to 0. By testing *First_loop*, the algorithm can determine if it is being called for the first time since an INITiate command was received. Example:

```
static float scalar_var;
static float array_var [ 4 ];

/* assign constants to variables on first pass only */
if ( First_loop )
{
        scalar_var = 22.3;
        array_var[0] = 0;
        array_var[1] = 0;
        array_var[2] = 1.2;
        array_var[3] = 4;
}
```

Initializing Variables

Variable initialization can be performed during three distinct VT1419A operations.

1. When an algorithm is defined with the ALG:DEFINE command. A declaration initialization statement is a command to the driver's translator function and doesn't create an executable statement. The value assigned during algorithm definition is not re-assigned when the algorithm is run with the INIT command. Example statement:

```
static float my_variable = 22.95;/* tells translator to allocate space for this */
                                 /* variable and initialize it to 22.95          */
```

2. Each time the algorithm executes. By placing an assignment statement within the algorithm. This will be executed each time the algorithm is executed. Example statement.

```
my_variable = 22.95;              /* reset variable to 22.95 every pass        */
```

3. When the algorithm first executes after an INIT command. By using the global variable *First_loop*, the algorithm can distinguish the first execution since an INIT command was sent. Example statement:

```
if( First_loop ) my_variable = 22.95;  /* reset variable only when INIT starts alg */
```

Sending Data to the CVT and FIFO

The Current Value Table (CVT) and FIFO data buffer provide communication from an algorithm to the application program (running in the VXIbus controller).

Writing a CVT element

The CVT provides 502 addressable elements where algorithm values can be stored. To send a value to a CVT element, execute the intrinsic Algorithm Language statement **writecvt(<*expression*>,<*cvt_element*>)**, where <*cvt_element*> can take the value 10 through 511. The following is an example algorithm statement:

```
writecvt(O136, 330);  /* send output channel 36's value to CVT element 330 */
```

Each time the algorithm writes a value to a CVT element the previous value in that element is overwritten.

Reading CVT elements

The application program reads one or more CVT elements by executing the SCPI command **[SENSe:]DATA:CVT? (@*<element_list>*)**, where *<element_list>* specifies one or more individual elements and/or a range of contiguous elements. The following example command will help to explain the *<element_list>* syntax.

DATA:CVT? (@10,20,30:33,40:43,330) *Return elements 10, 20, 30-33, 40-43 and element 330.*

Individual element numbers are isolated by commas. A contiguous range of elements is specified by: <starting element>colon<ending element>.

Writing values to the FIFO

The FIFO, as the name implies, is a First-In-First-Out buffer. It can buffer up to 65,024 values. This capability allows an algorithm to send a continuous stream of data values related in time by their position in the buffer. This can be thought of as an electronic strip-chart recorder. Each value is sent to the FIFO by executing the Algorithm Language intrinsic statement **writefifo(*<expression>*)**. The following is an example algorithm statement:

```
writefifo(O139);  /* send output channel 39's value to the FIFO */
```

Since the actual algorithm execution rate can be determined (see "Programming the Trigger Timer" on page 79), the time relationship of readings in the FIFO is very deterministic.

Reading values from the FIFO

For a discussion on reading values from the FIFO, see "Retrieving Algorithm Data" on page 81.

Writing values to the FIFO and CVT

The **writeboth(*<expression>*,*<cvt_element>*)** statement sends the value of *<expression>* both to the FIFO and to a *<cvt_element>*. Reading these values is done the same way as mentioned for **writefifo()** and **writecvt()**.

Setting a VXIbus Interrupt

The algorithm language provides the function **interrupt()** to force a VXIbus interrupt. When **interrupt()** is executed in an algorithm, a VXIbus interrupt line (selected by the SCPI command DIAG:INTR[:LINe]) is asserted. The following example algorithm code tests an input channel value and sets an interrupt if it is higher or lower than set limits.

```
static float upper_limit = 1.2, lower_limit = 0.2;
if( I124 > upper_limit || I124 < lower_limit ) interrupt();
```

Calling User Defined Functions

Access to user defined functions is provided to avoid complex equation calculation within an algorithm. Essentially what is provided with the VT1419A is a method to pre-compute user function values outside of algorithm execution and place these values in tables, one for each user function. Each function table element contains a slope and offset to calculate an m*x*+b over the interval (*x* is the value provided to the function). This allows the DSP to linearly interpolate the table for a given input value and return the function's value much faster than if a transcendental function's equation were arithmetically evaluated using a power series expansion.

User functions are defined by downloading function table values with the ALG:FUNC:DEF command and can take any name that is a valid 'C' identifier like 'haversine', 'sqr', 'log10', etc. To find out how to generate table values from a function equation, see the Agilent VEE example program "*fn_1419.vee*" in Chapter 5 page 156. For details on the ALG:FUNC:DEF command, see page 197 in the Command Reference.

User defined functions are global in scope. A user function defined with ALG:FUNC:DEF is available to all defined algorithms. Up to 32 functions can be defined in the VT1419A. The functions can be called with the syntax <*func_name*>(<*expression*>). Example:

for user function pre-defined as square root with name 'sqrt'

```
O132 = sqrt( I100);  /* channel 32 outputs square root of input channel 0's value */
```

NOTE A user function must be defined (ALG:FUNC:DEF) before any algorithm is defined (ALG:DEF) that references it.

Operating Sequence

This section explains another important factor in an algorithm's execution environment. Figure 4-2 shows the same overall sequence of operations seen in Chapter 3, but also includes a block diagram to show which parts of the VT1419A are involved in each phase of the control sequence.

Overall Sequence

Here, the important things to note about this diagram are:

- All algorithm referenced input channel values are stored in the Channel Input Buffer (Input Phase) BEFORE algorithms are executed during the Calculate Phase.
- The execution of all defined algorithms (Calculate Phase) is complete BEFORE output values from algorithms, stored in the Channel Output Buffer, are used to update the output channel hardware during the Output Phase.

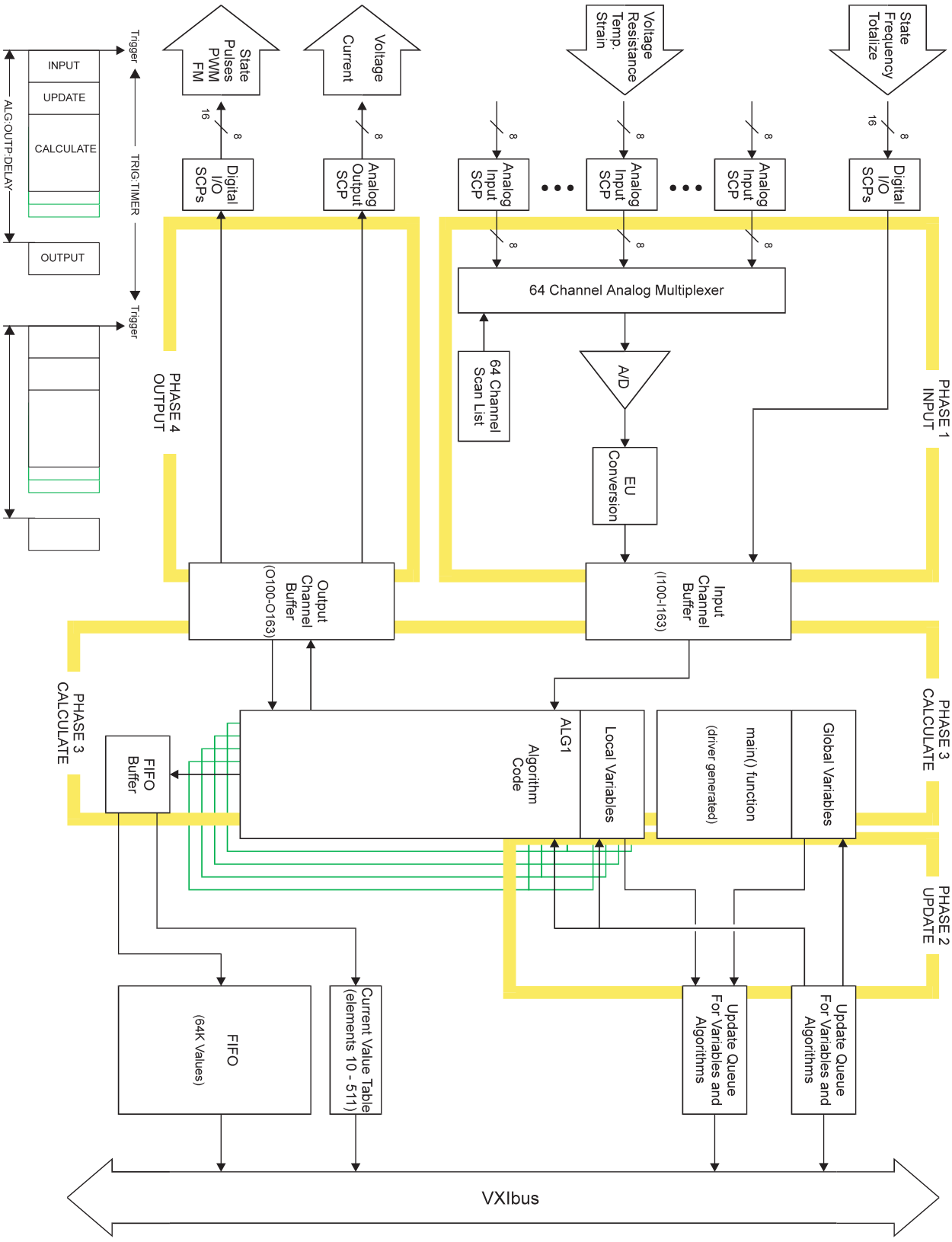


Figure 4-2: Algorithm Operating Sequence Diagram

In other words, algorithms don't actually read inputs at the time they reference input channels and they don't send values to outputs at the time they reference output channels. Algorithms read channel values from an input buffer and write (and can read) output values to/from an output buffer. Here are example algorithm statements to describe operation:

```
inp_val = I108;     /* inp_val is assigned a value from input buffer element 8 */
O137 = 22.3;        /* output buffer element 37 assigned the value 22.3 */
O133 = O132;        /* output buffer [32] is read and assigned to output buffer [33] */
```

A Common Error to Avoid

Since the "buffered input - algorithm execution - buffered output" sequence is probably not a method many are familiar with, a programming mistake associated with it is easy to make. It is hoped that, once seen here, that it will not be duplicated. The following algorithm statements will help explain:

```
O156.B0 = 1;        /* digital output bit on VT1533A in SCP position 3 */
O156.B0 = 0;
```

Traditionally, the first of these two statements is expected to set output channel 56 bit 0 to a digital 1, then, after the time it takes to execute the second statement, the bit would return to a digital 0. Because both of these statements are executed BEFORE any values are sent to the output hardware, only the last statement has any effect. Even if these two statements were in separate algorithms, the last one executed would determine the output value. In this example the bit would never change. The same applies to analog outputs.

Algorithm Execution Order

The buffered I/O sequence explained previously can be used advantageously. Multiple algorithms can access the very same buffered channel input value without having to pass the value in a parameter. Any algorithm can read and use the value that any other algorithm has sent to the output buffer as its input. In order for these features to be of use, the order in which the algorithms are executed must be known. When algorithms are defined, they are given one of 32 pre-defined algorithm names. These range from 'ALG1' to ALG32'. The algorithms will execute in order of its name. For instance, if 'ALG5' is defined, then 'ALG2,' then 'ALG8' and finally 'ALG1,' when they are run, they will execute in the order 'ALG1,' 'ALG2,' 'ALG5,' and 'ALG8.'

Defining Algorithms (ALG:DEF)

This section discusses how to use the ALG:DEFINE command to define algorithms. Later sections will discuss "what to define".

ALG:DEFINE in the Programming Sequence

*RST erases all previously defined algorithms. All algorithms must be erased before they re-defined (except in the special case described in "Changing an Algorithm While it's Running" later in this section).

ALG:DEFINE's Two Data Formats

For algorithms, the ALG:DEFINE '*<alg_name>*','*<source_code>*' command sends the algorithm's source code to the VT1419A's driver for translation to executable code. The *<source_code>* parameter can be sent in one of three forms:

1. SCPI Quoted String: For short segments (single lines) of code, enclose the code string within single (apostrophes) or double quotes. Because of string length limitations within SCPI and some programming platforms, it is recommend that the quoted string length not exceed a single program line. Example:

   ALG:DEF 'ALG1','if(First_loop) O132=0; O132=O132+.01;'

2. SCPI Indefinite Length Block Program Data: This form terminates the data transfer when it receives an End Identifier with the last data byte. Use this form only when it is certain that the controller platform will include the End Identifier. If it is not included, the ALG:DEF command will "swallow" whatever data follows the algorithm code. The syntax for this parameter type is:

   #0<data byte(s)><null byte with End Identifier>

   Example from "Quoted String" above:

ALG:DEF 'ALG1',#0O132=I100;LF/EOI

where LF/EOI is a line-feed character sent with End Identifier true (EOI signal for GPIB)

NOTE for C-SCPI

For Block Program Data, the Algorithm Parser requires that the *<source_code>* data end with a null (Ø) byte. The null byte must be appended to the end of the block's *<data byte(s)>*. If the null byte is not included within the block, the error "Algorithm Block must contain termination '\0'" will be generated.

Changing an Algorithm While It Is Running

The VT1419A has a feature that allows a given algorithm to be specified that can be swapped with another even while it is executing. This is useful if, for instance, the function of an algorithm needs to be altered that is currently controlling a process that cannot be left uncontrolled. In this case, when the original algorithm is defined, it can be enabled for swapping.

Defining an Algorithm for Swapping

The ALG:DEF command has an optional parameter that is used to enable algorithm swapping. The command's general form is:

ALG:DEF '<*alg_name*>'[,<*swap_size*>],'<*source_code*>'

Note the parameter <*swap_size*>. With <*swap_size*>, the amount of algorithm memory to allocate for algorithm <*alg_name*> is specified. Make sure to allocate enough space for the largest algorithm expected to be defined for <*alg_name*>. Here is an example of defining an algorithm for swapping:

define ALG3 so it can be swapped with an algorithm as large as 1000 words

```
ALG:DEF 'ALG3',1000,#41698<1698char_alg_source>
```

NOTE The number of characters (bytes) in an algorithm's <*source_code*> parameter is not well related to the amount of memory space the algorithm requires. Remember this parameter contains the algorithm's source code, not the executable code it will be translated into by the ALG:DEF command. An algorithm's source might contain extensive comments, none of which will be in the executable algorithm code after it is translated.

How Does it Work?

The example algorithm definition above will be used for this discussion. When a value is specified for <*swap_size*> at algorithm definition, the VT1419A allocates two identical algorithm spaces for ALG3, each the size specified by <*swap_size*> (in this example 1000 words). This is called a "double buffer". In this example, they will be referred to as "space A" and "space B." The algorithm is loaded into ALG3's space A at first definition. Later, while algorithms are running, ALG3 can be "replaced" again by executing:

```
ALG:DEF ALG3,#42435<2435char_alg_source>
```

Notice that <*swap_size*> is not (must not be) included this time. This ALG:DEF works like an Update Request. The VT1419A translates and downloads the new algorithm into ALG3's space B while the old ALG3 is still running from space A. When the new algorithm has been completely loaded into space B and an ALG:UPDATE command has been sent, the VT1419A simply switches to executing ALG3's new algorithm from space B at the next Update Phase (see Figure 3-8). If yet another ALG3 were sent, it would be loaded and executed from ALG3's space A.

Determining an Algorithm's Size

In order to define an algorithm for swapping, it is necessary to know how much algorithm memory to allocate for it or any of its replacements. This information can be queried from the VT1419A. Use the following sequence:

1. Define the algorithm without swapping enabled. This will cause the VT1419A to allocate only the memory actually required by the algorithm.
2. Execute the ALG:SIZE? <*alg_name*> command to query the amount of memory allocated. The minimum amount of memory required for the algorithm is now known.
3. Repeat 1 and 2 for each of the algorithms that will be swapped with the original. From this, the minimum amount of memory required for the largest is determined.
4. Execute *RST to erase all algorithms.
5. Re-define one of the algorithms with swapping enabled and specify <*swap_size*> at least as large as the value from step 3 above (and probably somewhat larger because as alternate algorithms declare different variables, space is allocated for total of all variables declared).
6. Swap each of the alternate algorithms for the one defined in step 5, ending with the one that will be run now. Remember not to send the <*swap_size*> parameter with these. If an "Algorithm too big" error is not received, then the value for <*swap_size*> in step 5 was large enough.
7. Define any other algorithms in the normal manner.

NOTES

1. Channels referenced by algorithms when they are defined are only placed in the channel list before INIT. The channel list cannot be changed after INIT. If an algorithm is redefined (by swapping) after INIT and it references channels not already in the channel list, these channels will only return a floating point zero. No error message will be generated. To make sure all required channels will be included in the channel list, define <*alg_name*> and re-define all algorithms that will replace <*alg_name*> by swapping them before INIT is sent. This insures that all channels referenced in these algorithms will be available after INIT.
2. The driver only calculates overall execution time for algorithms defined before INIT. This calculation is used to set the default output delay (same as executing ALG:OUTP:DELAY AUTO). If an algorithm is swapped after INIT that take longer to execute than the original, the output delay will behave as if set by ALG:OUTP:DEL 0, rather than AUTO (see ALG:OUTP:DEL command). Use the same procedure from note 1 to make sure the longest algorithm execution time is used to set ALG:OUTP:DEL AUTO before INIT.

The Agilent VEE example program "*swap1419.vee*" shows how to swap algorithms while the module is running. See Chapter 5 page 168.

A Very Simple First Algorithm

This section shows how to create and download an algorithm that simply sends the value of an input channel to a CVT element. It includes an example application program that configures the VT1419A, downloads (defines) the algorithm, starts and then communicates with the running algorithm.

Writing the Algorithm

The most convenient method of creating an algorithm is to use a text editor or word processor to input the source code.

```
/* Example algorithm that calculates 4 Mx+B values upon
 * signal that sync == 1.  Your application sets sync with the
 * SCPI command ALG:SCALAR
 * M and B terms are also set by application
 * program.
 */
static float M, B, x, sync;
if ( First_loop ) sync = 0;
if ( sync == 1 ) {
        writecvt(  M*x+B,   10 );
        writecvt(-(M*x+B),  11 );
        writecvt( (M*x+B)/2,12 );
        writecvt( 2*(M*x+B),13 );
        sync = 2;
}
```

Running the Algorithm

The supplied Agilent VEE example program "*temp1419.vee*" shows how to load and run algorithms. See Chapter 5 page 149.

Non-Control Algorithms

Data Acquisition Algorithm

The VT1419A's Algorithm Language includes intrinsic functions to write values to the CVT, the FIFO, or both. Using these functions, algorithms can be created that simply perform a data acquisition function. The following example shows acquiring eight channels of analog input from SCP position 0 and one channel (8 bits) of digital input from a VT1533A in SCP position 7. The results of the acquisition are placed in the CVT and FIFO.

```
/* Data acquisition to CVT and FIFO */
writeboth( I100, 330 ); /* channel 0 to FIFO and CVT element 330 */
writeboth( I101, 331 ); /* channel 1 to FIFO and CVT element 331 */
writeboth( I102, 332 ); /* channel 2 to FIFO and CVT element 332 */
writeboth( I103, 333 ); /* channel 3 to FIFO and CVT element 333 */
writeboth( I104, 334 ); /* channel 4 to FIFO and CVT element 334 */
writeboth( I105, 335 ); /* channel 5 to FIFO and CVT element 335 */
writeboth( I106, 336 ); /* channel 6 to FIFO and CVT element 336 */
writeboth( I107, 337 ); /* channel 7 to FIFO and CVT element 337 */
writeboth( I156, 338 ); /* channel 56 to FIFO and CVT element 338 */
```

Using SENS:DATA:FIFO:… and the SENS:DATA:CVT commands, the application program can access the data.

Process Monitoring Algorithm

Another function the VT1419A performs well is monitoring input values and testing them against pre-set limits. If an input value exceeds its limit, the algorithm can be written to supply an indication of this condition by changing a CVT value or even forcing a VXIbus interrupt. The following example shows acquiring one analog input value from channel 0 and one VT1533A digital channel from channel 56 and limit testing them.

```
/* Limit test inputs , send values to CVT and force interrupt when exceeded */
static float    Exceeded;   /* Exceeded is set by boolean operations to either 0 or 1
*/

static float    Max_chan0, Min_chan0, Max_chan1, Min_chan1;
static float    Max_chan2, Min_chan2, Max_chan3, Min_chan3;
static float    Mask_chan56;
if ( First_loop ) Exceeded = 0;  /* initialize Exceeded on each INIT */
writecvt( I100, 330); /* write analog value to CVT */
Exceeded = ( ( I100 > Max_chan0 ) || ( I100 < Min_chan0 ) ); /* limit test analog */
writecvt( I101, 331); /* write analog value to CVT */
Exceeded = Exceeded + ( ( I101 > Max_chan1 ) || ( I101 < Min_chan1 ) );
writecvt( I102, 332); /* write analog value to CVT */
Exceeded = Exceeded + ( ( I102 > Max_chan2 ) || ( I102 < Min_chan2 ) );
writecvt( I103, 333); /* write analog value to CVT */
Exceeded = Exceeded + ( ( I103 > Max_chan3 ) || ( I103 < Min_chan3 ) );
writecvt( I156, 334); /* write 8-bit value to CVT */
Exceeded = Exceeded + ( I156 != Mask_chan56); /* limit test digital */
If ( Exceeded ) interrupt( );
```

Algorithm Language Reference

This section provides a summary of reserved keywords, operators, data types, constructs, intrinsic functions, and statements.

Standard Reserved Keywords

The list of reserved keywords is the same as ANSI 'C.' Variables cannot be created using these names. Note that the keywords that are shown underlined and bold are the only ANSI 'C' keywords that are implemented in the VT1419A.

auto	double	int	struc
break	**else**	long	switch
case	enum	register	typeof
char	extern	**return**	union
const	**float**	short	unsigned
continue	for	signed	void
default	goto	sizeof	volatile
do	**if**	**static**	while

NOTE While all of the ANSI 'C' keywords are reserved, only those keywords that are shown in bold are actually implemented in the VT1419A.

Special VT1419A Reserved Keywords

The VT1419A implements some additional reserved keywords. Variables cannot be created using these names:

abs	interrupt	writeboth
Bn (n=0 through 9)	max	writecvt
Bnn (nn=10 through 15)	min	writefifo

Identifiers

Identifiers (variable names) are significant to 31 characters. They can include alpha, numeric and the underscore character "_". Names must begin with an alpha character or the underscore character.

Alpha: a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Numeric: 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
Other: _

NOTE Identifiers are case sensitive. The names My_array and my_array reference different identifiers.

Special Identifiers for Channels

Channel identifiers appear as variable identifiers within the algorithm and have a fixed, reserved syntax. The identifiers I100 to I163 specify input channel numbers. The "I" must be upper case. They may only appear on the right side of an assignment operator. The identifiers O100 to O163 specify output channel numbers. The "O" must be upper case. They can appear on either or both sides of the assignment operator.

NOTE Trying to declare a variable with a channel identifier will generate an error.

Operators

The VT1419A's Algorithm Language supports the following operators:

Assignment Operator

=	(assignment)	example;	c = 1.2345

Arithmetic Operators

+	(addition)	examples;	c = a + b
-	(subtraction)		c = a - b
*	(multiplication)		c = a * b
/	(division)		c = a / b

Unary Operators

-	(unary minus)		c = a + (-b)
+	(unary plus)		c = a + (+b)

Comparison Operators

==	(is equal to)	examples;	a == b
!=	(is not equal to)		a != b
<	(is less than)		a < b
>	(is greater than)		a > b
<=	(is less than or equal to)		a <= b
>=	(is greater than or equal to)		a >= b

Logical Operators

||	(or)	examples;	(a == b) || (a == c)
&&	(and)		(a == b) && (a == c)

Unary Logical Operator

!	(not)	example;	!b

The result of a comparison operation is a boolean value. It is still a type **float**, but its value is either 0 (zero), if false, or 1 (one), if true. Any variable may be tested with the **if** statement. A value of zero tests false, if any other value it tests true. For example:

```
/* if my_var is other than 0, increment count_var */
if(my_var) count_var=count_var+1;
```

Intrinsic Functions and Statements

The following functions and statements are provided in the VT1419A's Algorithm Language:

Functions:

abs(*expression*)	return absolute value of expression
max(*expression1,expression2*)	return largest of the two expressions
min(*expression1,expression2*)	return smallest of the two expressions

Statements:

interrupt()	sets VXI interrupt
writeboth(*expression,cvt_loc***)**	write expression result to FIFO and CVT element specified.
writecvt(*expression,cvt_loc***)**	write expression result to CVT element specified.
writefifo(*expression***)**	write expression result to FIFO.

Program Flow Control

Program flow control is limited to the conditional execution construct using **if** and **else** and **return**. Looping inside an algorithm function is not supported. The only "loop" is provided by repeatedly triggering the VT1419A. Each trigger event (either external or internal Trigger Timer) executes the **main()** function which calls each defined and enabled algorithm function. There is no **goto** statement.

Conditional Constructs

The VT1419A Algorithm Language provides the **if-else** construct in the following general form:

if (*expression***)** *statement1* **else** *statement2*

If *expression* evaluates to non-zero *statement1* is executed. If *expression* evaluates to zero, *statement2* is executed. The else clause with its associated *statement2* is optional. Statement1 and/or statement2 can be compound statement. That is {*statement; statement; statement; …* }.

Exiting the Algorithm

The **return** statement allows terminating algorithm execution before reaching the end by returning control to the main() function. The **return** statement can appear anywhere in an algorithm. A **return** statement is not required to end an algorithm. The translator treats the end of an algorithm as an implied return.

Data Types

The data type for variables is always **static float**. However, decimal constant values without a decimal point or exponent character (“.”, “E” or “e”) as well as Hex and Octal constants are treated as 32-bit integer values. This treatment of constants is consistent with ANSI ‘C’. To understand what this can mean, it must be understood that not all arithmetic statements in an algorithm are actually performed within the VT1419A’s DSP chip at algorithm run-time. Where expressions can be simplified, the VT1419A’s translator (a function of the driver invoked by ALG:DEF) performs the arithmetic operations before downloading the executable code to the algorithm memory in the VT1419A. For example, look at the following statement:

```
a = 5 + 8;
```

When the VT1419A’s translator receives this statement, it simplifies it by adding the two integer constants (5 and 8) and storing the sum of these as the float constant 13. At algorithm run-time, the float constant 13 is assigned to the variable “a.” No surprises so far. Now, analyze this statement:

```
a = ( 3 / 4 ) * 12;
```

Again, the translator simplifies the expression by performing the integer divide for 3 / 4. This results in the integer value 0 being multiplied by 12 which results in the float constant 0.0 being assigned to the variable “a” at run-time. This is obviously not what was desired, but is exactly what the algorithm instructed.

These subtle problems can be avoided by specifically including a decimal point in decimal constants where an integer operation is not desired. For example, either of the constants in the division above were made into a float constant by including a decimal point, the translator would have promoted the other constant toa float value and performed a float divide operation resulting in the expected 0.75 * 12 or the value 9.0. So, the statement:

```
a = ( 3. / 4 ) * 12;
```

will result in the value float 9.0 being assigned to the variable “a.”

The Static Modifier

All VT11419A variables, local or global, must be declared as **static**. An example:

```
static float gain_var, integer_var, deriv_var;    /* three vars declared */
```

In ‘C,’ local variables that are not declared as **static** lose their values once the function completes. The value of a local **static** variable remains unchanged between calls to an algorithm. Treating all variables this way allows an algorithm to “remember” its previous state. The static variable is local in scope, but otherwise behaves as a global variable. Also note, variables cannot be declared within a compound statement.

Data Structures

The VT1419A Algorithm Language allows the following data structures:

- Simple variables of type **float**:
  Declaration
  ```
  static float simp_var, any_var;
  ```
  Use
  ```
  simp_var = 123.456;
  any_var = -23.45;
  Another_var = 1.23e-6;
  ```
  Storage
  Each simple variable requires four 16-bit words of memory.

- Single-dimensioned arrays of type **float** with a maximum of 1024 elements:
  Declaration
  ```
  static float array_var [3];
  ```
  Use
  ```
  array_var [0] = 0.1;
  array_var [1] = 1.2;
  array_var [2] = 2.34;
  array_var [3] = 5;
  ```
  Storage
  Arrays are "double buffered." This means that when an array is declared, twice the space required for the array is allocated, plus one more word as a buffer pointer. The memory required is:

  $$words\ of\ memory = (8 * num\_elements) + 1$$

  This double buffered arrangement allows the ALG:ARRAY command to download all elements of the array into the "B" buffer while the algorithm is accessing values from the "A" buffer. An ALG:UPDATE command can then cause the buffer pointer word to point to the newly loaded buffer between algorithm executions.

Using Type Float in Integer Situations

There are certain situations where integers would normally be used, but, with the VT1419A, type float is all that is available. This usually has to do with writing values to digital SCP channels. With the VT1533A Digital I/O SCP, each channel (two per SCP) reads or writes 8 bits. With the VT1534A and VT1536A SCPs, each channel (eight per SCP) reads or writes 1 bit. Note the following behavior when sending values to digital channels:

- A floating point number sent to a digital channel is truncated to integer by dropping any fractional portion. So, the value 234.8 sent to an 8 bit channel will have the same effect as the integer value 234. The value 0.8 sent to a 1 bit channel will be evaluated as 0. The value 1.9 becomes 1.
- The VT1419A treats values sent to a digital channel as signed. That is, negative and positive values are valid. For instance, -1 sent to a VT1533A Digital I/O channel sets all bits to one.
- A value sent to a digital channel that is greater than the channel's bit capacity is treated in a modulo(bit width) fashion. For an 8 bit channel the formula is <*channel value*>MODULO 256. For example, 255 sent to an 8 bit channel sets all of its bits. But, 256 clears all eight bits because 256 is a 9 bit value. The value 257 would then set bit 0 (the 8 bit value 1).

  One bit channels behave in the same way. The formula becomes <*channel value*>MODULO 1. So the value 1 sent to a 1 bit channel sets the bit, but the value 2 clears the bit. For 1 bit channels all odd values set the bit while all even values clear the bit.

Bitfield Access

The VT1419A implements bitfield syntax that allows individual bit values to be manipulated within a variable. This syntax is similar to what would be done in 'C,' but doesn't require a structure declaration. Bitfield syntax is supported only for the lower 16 bits (bits 0-15) of simple (scalar) variables and channel identifiers. Values read from or written to bitfields behave as integer values as described in "Using Type Float in Integer Situations" above.

Use

```
if(word_var.B0 || word_var.B3)  /* if either bit 0 or bit 3 true ... */
    word_var.B15 = 1;           /* set bit 15                        */
```

NOTES

1. It is not necessary to declare a bitfield structure in order to use it. In the Algorithm Language, the bitfield structure is assumed to be applicable to any simple variable including channel identifiers.
2. Unlike 'C', the Algorithm Language allows both bit access and "whole" access to the same variable. Example:

```
static float my_word_var;
my_word_var = 255      /* set bits 0 through 7 */
my_word_var.B3 = 0     /* clear bit 3 */
```

Declaration Initialization

Only simple variables (not array members) can be initialized in the declaration statement:

```
static float my_var = 2;
```

NOTE! The initialization of the variable only occurs when the algorithm is first defined with the ALG:DEF command. The first time the algorithm is executed (module INITed and triggered), the value will be as initialized. But when the module is stopped (ABORt command) and then re-INITiated, the variable will not be re-initialized but will contain the value last assigned during program execution. In order to initialize variables each time the module is re-INITialized, see "Determining First Execution" on page 111.

Global Variables

To declare global variables, execute the SCPI command ALG:DEF 'GLOBALS',<*program_string*>. The <*program_string*> can contain simple variable and array variable declaration/initialization statements. The string must not contain any executable source code.

Example global definition (for <*program_string*> less than 256 characters):

```
ALG:DEF 'GLOBALS','static float Scalar_global, Array_glob[10];'
```

Example global definition (for <*program_string*> greater than 256 characters, which requires the Indefinite Block Program Data format):

```
ALG:DEF 'GLOBALS',#0static float Scalar_global, Array_glob[10].....LF/EOI
```

Language Syntax Summary

This section documents the VT1419A's Algorithm Language elements.

Identifier

First character is A-Z, a-z or "_", optionally followed by characters; A-Z, a-z, 0-9 or "_". Only the first 31 characters are significant. For example; a, abc, a1, a12, a_12, now_is_the_time, gain1

Decimal Constant

First character is 0-9 or "."(decimal point). Remaining characters if present are 0-9, a "."(one only), a single "E"or"e", optional "+" or "-", 0-9. For example; 0.32, 2, 123, 123.456, 1.23456e-2, 12.34E3

NOTE Decimal constants without a decimal point character are treated by the translator as 32-bit integer values. See Data Types on page 125.

Hexadecimal Constant

First characters are 0x or 0X. Remaining characters are 0-9 and A-F or a-f. No "." allowed.

Octal Constant

First character is 0. Remaining characters are 0-7. If "." , "e" or "E" is found, the number is assumed to be a Decimal Constant as above.

Primary-Expression

constant
(*expression***)**
scalar-identifier
scalar-identifier **.** *bitnumber*
array-identifier **[***expression***]**
abs(*expression***)**
max(*expression* **,** *expression***)**
min(*expression* **,** *expression***)**

Bit-Number

B*n* where *n*=0-9
B*nn* where *nn*=10-15

Unary-Expression

primary-expression
unary-operator unary-expression

Unary-Operator

+
–
!

Multiplicative-Expression

unary-expression
multiplicative-expression multiplicative-operator unary-expression

Multiplicative-Operator

*****
/

Additive-Expression

multiplicative-expression
additive-expression additive-operator multiplicative-expression

Additive-Operator

+
–

Relational-Expression

additive-expression
relational-expression relational-operator additive-expression

Relational-Operator

<
>
<=
>=

Equality-Expression

relational-expression
equality-expression equality-operator relational-expression

Equality-Operator

==
!=

Logical-AND-Expression

equality-expression
logical-AND-expression **&&** *equality-expression*

Expression

logical-AND-expression
expression **||** *logical-AND-expression*

Declarator

identifier
identifier **[** *integer-constant-expression* **]**
NOTE: integer-constant expression in array identifier above must not exceed 1023

Init-Declarator

declarator
declarator **=** *constant-expression*
NOTES: 1. May not initialize array declarator.
2. Arrays limited to single dimension of 1024 maximum.

Init-Declarator-List

init-declarator
init-declarator-list **,** *init-declarator*

Declaration

static float *init-declarator-list* **;**

Declarations

declaration
declarations declaration

Intrinsic-Statement

interrupt ( )
writefifo (*expression* **)**
writecvt (*expression* **,** *constant-expression* **)**
writeboth(*expression* **,** *constant-expression* **)**
return

Expression-Statement

scalar-identifier **=** *expression* **;**
scalar-identifier **.** *bit-number* **=** *expression* **;**
array-identifier **[** *integer-constant expression* **]** = expression **;**
intrinsic-statement **;**

Selection-Statement

if (*expression* **)** *statement*
if (*expression* **)** *statement* **else** *statement*

Compound-Statement

{ *statement-list* **}**
{ }
NOTE: Variable declaration not allowed in compound statement

Statement

expression-statement
compound-statement
selection-statement

Statement-List

statement
statement-list statement

Algorithm-Definition

declarations statement-list
statement-list

Program Structure and Syntax

In this section, the portion of the ‘C’ programming language that is directly applicable to the VT1419A’ Algorithm Language will be learned. To do this, the ‘C’ Algorithm Language elements will be compared with equivalent BASIC language elements.

Declaring Variables

In BASIC, the DIM statement is typically used to name variables and allocate space in memory for them. In the Algorithm Language, the variable type and a list of variables is specified:

BASIC	‘C’
DIM a, var, array(3)	static float a, var, array[3];

Here, three variables are declared. Two simple variables, **a** and **var**, and a single dimensioned array, **array**.

Comments

- Note that the ‘C’ language statement must be terminated with the semicolon “**;**”.
- Although in the Algorithm Language all variables are of type float, they must be explicitly declared as such.
- All variables in an algorithm are **static**. This means that each time the algorithm is executed, the variables “remember” their values from the previous execution. The **static** modifier *must* appear in the declaration.
- Array variables must have a single dimension. The array dimension specifies the number of elements. The lower bound is always zero (0) in the Algorithm Language. Therefore the variable **array** from above has three elements; **array [0]** through **array[2]**.

Assigning Values

BASIC and ‘C’ are the same in this aspect. In both languages, the symbol “=” is used to assign a value to a simple variable or an element of an array. The value can come from a constant, another variable, or an expression. Examples:

```
a = 12.345;
a = My_var;
a = My_array[ 2 ];
a = (My_array[ 1 ] + 6.2) / My_var;
```

NOTE In BASIC the assignment symbol "=" is also used as the comparison operator "is equal to." For example, IF a=b THEN ... . As is shown later in this chapter, 'C' uses a different symbol for this comparison.

The Operations Symbols

Many of the operation symbols are the same and are used the same way as those in BASIC. However, there are differences and they can cause programming errors until they are understood.

The Arithmetic Operators

The arithmetic operators available to the VT1419A are the same as those equivalents in BASIC:

+	(addition)	−	(subtraction)
*	(multiplication)	/	(division)

Unary Arithmetic Operator

Again same as BASIC:

−	(unary minus)	Examples:	`a = b + (-c)`
+	(unary plus)		`a = c + (+b)`

The Comparison Operators

Here there are some differences.

BASIC		'C'	Notes
=	(is equal to)	==	Different (hard to remember)
<> or #	(is not equal to)	!=	Different but obvious
>	(is greater than)	>	Same
<	(is less than)	>	Same
>=	(is greater than or equal to)	>=	Same
<=	(is less than or equal to)	<=	Same

A common 'C' programming error for BASIC programmers is to inadvertently use the assignment operator "=" instead of the comparison operator "==" in an **if** statement. Fortunately, the VT1419A will flag this as a Syntax Error when the algorithm is loaded.

The Logical Operators

There are three operators. They are very different from those in BASIC.

BASIC	Examples	'C'	Examples
AND	IF A=B AND B=C	&&	if((a == b)&&(b == c))
OR	IF A=B OR A=C	||	if((a == b) || (a == c))
NOT	IF NOT B	!	if (! b)

Conditional Execution

The VT1419A Algorithm Language provides the **if** - **else** construct for conditional execution. The following figure compares the elements of the 'C' **if - else** construct with the BASIC **if - then - else - end if** construct. The general form of the **if - else** construct is:

`if(`*expression***`)`** *statement1* **`else`** *statement2*

where *statement1* is executed if *expression* evaluates to non-zero (true) and *statement2* is executed if *expression* evaluates to zero (false). *Statement1* and/or *statement2* can be compound statements. That is, multiple simple statements within curly braces. See Figure 4-3.

Note that in BASIC the <*boolean_expression*> is delimited by the IF and the THEN keywords. In ‘C’ the parentheses delimit the expression. In ‘C’ , the “)” is the implied THEN. In BASIC the END IF keyword terminates a multi-line IF. In ‘C,’ the **if** is terminated at the end of the following statement when no **else** clause is present or at the end of the statement following the **else** clause. Figure 4-4 shows examples of these forms:

Note that in ‘C’ “else” is part of the closest previous “if”statement. So the example: if(x) if(y) z = 1; else z = 2;

executes like:

```
if( x ){
      if( y ){
            z = 1;
      }
      else{
            z = 2;
      }
}
```

not like:

```
if( x ){
      if ( y ){
            z = 1;
      }
}
else{
      z = 2;
}
```

Comment Lines

Probably the most important element of programming is the comment. In older BASIC interpreters the comment line began with “REM” and ended at the end-of-line character(s) (probably carriage return then linefeed). Later BASICs allowed comments to also begin with various “shorthand” characters such as “!” or “”. In all cases a comment ended when the end-of-line is encountered. In ‘C’ and the Algorithm Language, comments begin with the two characters “/*” and continue until the two characters “*/” are encountered. Examples:

BASIC Syntax	Comments	‘C’ Syntax
IF *boolean_expression* THEN statement	Simplest form (used often)	if(*boolean_expression) statement*;

IF *boolean_expression* THEN
  statement
END IF
	Two-line form (not recommended; use multiple line form instead)	if(*boolean_expression)*
		  statement;

IF boolean_expression THEN
  statement
  statement
  statement
END IF
	Multiple line form (used often)	if(*boolean_expression)*
		{
		  statement;
		  statement;
		  statement;
		}

IF *boolean_expression* THEN
  statement
  statement
ELSE
  statement
END IF
	Multiple line form with else (used often)	*if(boolean_expression)*
		{
		  statement;
		  statement;
		}
		else
		{
		  statement;
		}

Figure 4-3: The if Statement 'C' versus BASIC

```
/* this line is solely a comment line */
if ( a != b) c = d + 1;  /* comment within a code line */
/*    This comment is composed of more than one line.
      The comment can be any number of lines long and
      terminates when the following two characters appear
*/
```

About the only character combination that is not allowed within a comment is “*/”, since this will terminate the comment.

BASIC Syntax	'C' Syntax
IF A<=0 THEN C=ABS(A)	if(a <= 0) c=abs(a);

IF A<>0 THEN
  C=B/A
END IF
	if(a != 0)
	  c = b / a;

IF A<>B AND A<>C THEN
  A=A*B
  B=B+1
  C=0
END IF
	if((a != b) && (a != c))
	{
	  a = a * b;
	  b = b + 1;
	  c = 0;
	}

IF A=5 OR B=-5 THEN
  C=ABS(C)
  C= 2/C
ELSE
  C= A*B
END IF
	if((a == 5) || (b == -5))
	{
	  c = abs(c);
	  c = 2 / c;
	}
	else
	{
	  c = a * b;
	}

Figure 4-4: Examples of 'C' and BASIC if Statements

Overall Program Structure

The preceding discussion showed the differences between individual statements in BASIC and 'C.' The following shows how the VT1419A's Algorithm Language elements are arranged into a program.

Here is a simple example algorithm that shows most of the elements discussed so far.

```
/*      Example Algorithm to show language elements in the context of a complete
        custom algorithm.

        Program variables:

           user_flag        Set this value with the SCPI command ALG:SCALAR.
           user_value       Set this value with the SCPI command ALG:SCALAR.

        Program Function:

        Algorithm returns user_flag in CVT element 330 and another value in CVT element 331
        each time the algorithm is executed.
        When user_flag = 0, returns zero in CVT 331.
        When user_flag is positive, returns user_value * 2 in CVT 331
        When user_flag is negative, returns user_value / 2 in CVT 331 and in FIFO

        Use the SCPI command ALGorithm:SCALar followed by ALGorithm:UPDate to set
        user_flag and user_value.
*/
static float user_flag = 0;          /* user_flag will be initialized to 0 when alg is defined, not when run */
static float user_value;             /* Declaration statements (end with  ; ) */

        writecvt (user_flag,330);    /* Always write user_flag in CVT (statement ends with ; ) */

        if (user_flag )              /* if statement (note no ; ) */
```

```
        {                               /* brace opens compound statement */
           if (user_flag > 0) writecvt (user_value * 2,331);       /* one-line if statement (writecvt ends with ; )
*/
           else                         /* else immediately follows complete if-statement construct */
           {                            /* open compound statement for else clause */
                 writecvt (user_value / 2,331);    /* each simple statement ends in ; (even within compound
) */
                 writefifo (user_value);           /* these two statements could combine with writeboth () */
           }                            /* close compound statement for else clause */
        }                               /* close compound statement for first if */
        else writecvt (0,331);          /* else clause goes with first if statement. Note single line else */
```

Chapter 5
VEE Programming Examples

About This Chapter

The focus of this chapter is to demonstrate a multitude of VEE programming examples to help get the VT1419A application running as quickly as possible. Several VEE programs exist, but, to simplify the discussion, Agilent VEE examples are provided. These examples are a combination of fully working programs that demonstrate various capabilities of the VT1419A plus Agilent VEE object modules that can be merged into Agilent VEE applications to perform such operations as calibration, error checking, testing, custom functions and custom EU conversion. Any operation or function that may seem hard to implement with the VT1419A has been included in the spirit of Agilent VEE objects. Simply merge the examples and cut and paste what is needed. This typically results in complex functions being performed in a very short period of time.

These example programs are written to run on any Agilent VEE 3.0+ platform. This includes UNIX and Microsoft® Windows®98, Windows NT®4.0, Windows 2000, or Windows XP operating systems. These programs are primarily designed to run from an external computer communicating over a GPIB link to the Agilent/HP E1405B/06A Command Module. The Command Module holds the VT1419A driver which controls the VT1419A VXI card. The VT1419A VXI card comes pre-configured to LADD 208 (GPIB address 70926, for example).

These Agilent VEE programs are also viable for the VT1415A Algorithmic Closed Loop Control card since the programming architecture of both cards is very similar. The VT1415A provides greater flexibility and focuses more closely on PID closed loop control applications. The VT1419A is a more general purpose/lower cost data acquisition and control system solution.

NOTE The programming examples that follow reference model numbers which have an "E" prefix (e.g. "E1419A"). After the acquisition of these products by VXI Technology, Inc., the prefix has been changed to "VT" (e.g. "VT1419A"). These prefixes are interchangeable and vary with firmware revision and date of product purchase.

The contents of this chapter are:

- **Wiring Connections and File Locations for the Examples** . . . . . page 143
- **Virtual Front Panel Program: panl1419.vee**
  This program performs virtually all calibration, testing and general wiring connection verification needs. It's a quick way to get the card up and running and making measurements. Analog outputs can be set, all input channels can be looked at, SCP configurations can be seen, strip chart comparisons performed among any channel, and data can be logged to a disk. This program includes an Agilent VEE 4.0+ version that is compiled to load and run faster . . . . . page 144
- **Calibration: cal_1419.vee**
  This program operates stand-alone. However, it is easy to merge it directly into an VEE application program to provide easy access to the calibration sequence . . . . . page 147
- **Functional Test: test1419.vee**
  This program operates stand-alone. However, it is easy to merge it directly into any VEE application program to provide easy access to the card functional test sequence . . . . . page 148
- **Programming Model Example: temp1419.vee**
  This program operates stand-alone. It is written to follow the programming model outlined in Chapter 3. Examples cna be found for writing multiple algorithms, variable monitoring and modification, interrupts, temperature measurements and data display . . . . . page 149
- **Error Checking: err_1419.vee**
  This program operates stand-alone. However, it is designed to be merged into an application program to provide an object that can query every error stored in the VT1419A’s error queue. It’s a good debugging tool . . . . . page 152
- **Configuration Display: scp_1419.vee**
  This program operates stand-alone. However, it is designed to be merged into an application program to provide a means of displaying the driver and firmware revisions and identify which SCP’s are loaded into the 8 SCP slots . . . . . page 153

- **Engineering Unit Conversion: eu_1419.vee**
  This program is designed to be merged into an application program. It provides all the necessary objects to permit custom EU conversion on any of the VT1419A's 64 analog input channels. The program *eufn1419.vee* demonstrates how to use this module . . . . page 154

- **Custom Function Generation: fn_1419.vee**
  This program is designed to be merged into an application program. It provides all the necessary objects to build up to 32 custom functions callable from VT1419A algorithms. The program *eufn1419.vee* demonstrates how to use this module . . . . . page 156

- **Custom EU and Custom Function: eufn1419.vee**
  This program operates stand-alone. It is designed to show how easy it is to generate complicated EU conversion and Custom C functions by simply entering channel numbers, function names and algebraic expressions. Need to convert volts to pressure or perform a square-root operation? Use this program to see how easy it is to perform . . . . . page 158

- **Curve Fitting and EU Generation: regr1419.vee**
  This program operates stand-alone. It shows how the Agilent VEE regression tools can be used to generate a polynomial equation to fit volts and pressure. The generated equation can then be used in the *eu_1419.vee* module for converting volts to pressure during data acquisition of the VT1419A . . . . . page 160

- **Interrupt Handling: intr1419.vee**
  This program operates stand-alone. This is an example program that shows how to create multiple threads of operation in Agilent VEE to respond to a FIFO half-full interrupt. It teaches the concept of interrupt driven programming. The example *temp1419.vee* also incorporates a slightly different version of interrupt processing that can enhance learning . . . . . page 161

- **VT1419A Simple Data Logger: dlgr1419.vee**
  This program operates stand-alone. It illustrates how to configure the VT1419A to collect data, store that data into its FIFO, and retrieve that data for display on a strip chart and optional logging to a file. This program can also be used to read the stored data file "aichans" generated by the *panl1419.vee* example or it can be used to observe previously stored data files created with this example. This example can easily be modified to a more complicated version or the needed pieces can be cut and pasted where needed. An Agilent VEE 4.0+ compiled version is included with the software . . . . . page 163

- **Modification of Variables and Arrays: updt1419.vee**
  This program operates stand-alone. This example shows how operator interaction with running algorithms takes place and how to download changes for both scalar and array variables . . . . . page 166

- **Algorithm Modification: swap1419.vee**
  This program operates stand-alone. It demonstrates how to modify algorithms while the VT1419A is running. It includes further examples on custom function generation . . . . . page 168

- **Driver Download: drvr1419.vee**
  This program allows the VT1419A driver and any other Agilent VXI drivers that might be needed to be downloaded into an Agilent/HP E1405B/06A Command Module . . . . . page 170

- **Firmware Update Download: flsh1419.vee**
  This program allows the FLASH memory of the VT1419A to be saved and reprogrammed . . . . . page 171

Wiring Connections and File Locations for the Examples

The following illustration shows the connections that should be made to the VT1419A to allow the example programs in this chapter to operate as described. For detailed information on connecting wiring to the VT1419A, see Chapter 2.

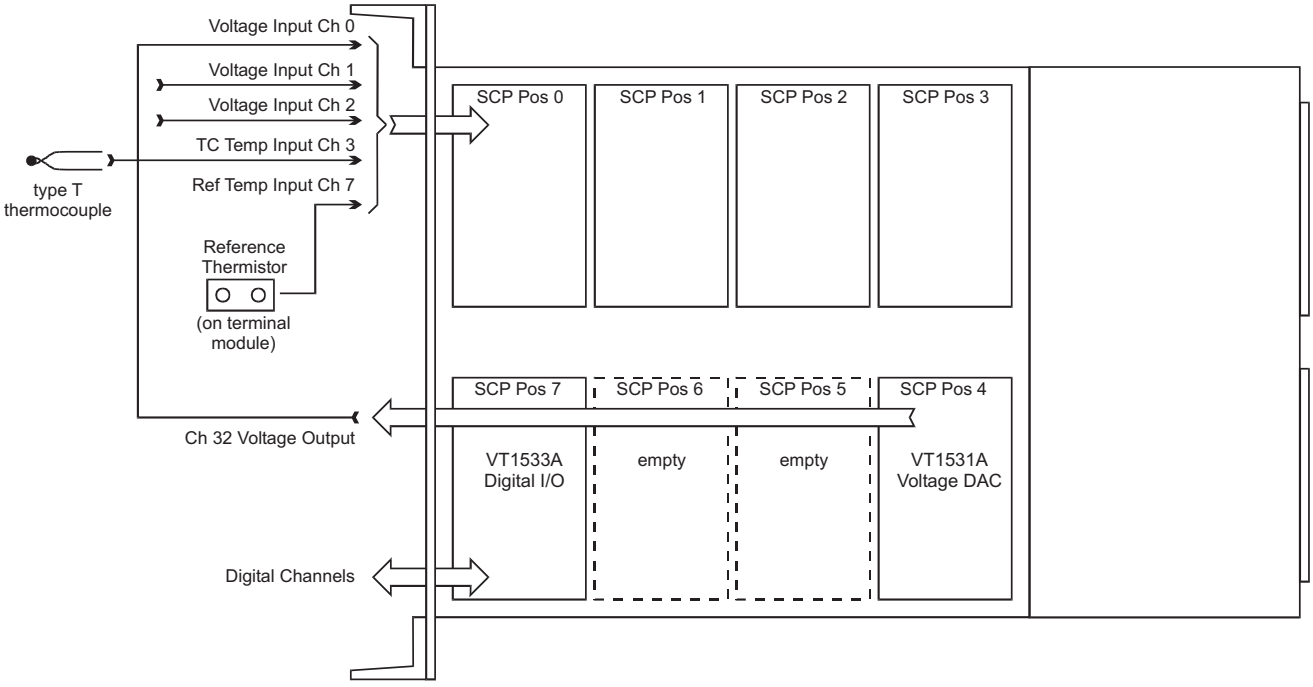


Figure 5-1: Signal Connections for Examples

Example File Location

The supplied VXI*plug&play* Drivers & Product Manuals CD (P/N: 72-0030-000) contains all of these example programs stored in the Agilent VEE 3.0 compatibility mode. If using Agilent VEE 4.0 or higher, it may be beneficial to compile those examples that would benefit from the increased speed (*panl1419.vee*, *temp1419.vee* and *swap1419.vee*).
The Directory path to these examples is:

<cd drive letter>:\Misc Product Info\Program Examples\VT1419

Installing Example Files

In order for the example programs to run they must be installed onto the hard drive in the **C:\dabundle** directory. The **Misc Product Info\Program Examples\VT1419** directory mentioned above contains a batch file "install.bat" that will copy the examples to **C:\dabundle**. Using Windows system's File Manager or Explorer, open the CD directory **Misc Product Info\Program Examples\VT1419\vee_files** and double-click on "install.bat." Agilent VEE can then be started and the example programs loaded.

Virtual Front Panel Program

panl1419.vee: This program performs virtually all calibration, testing, and general wiring connection verification needs. It's a quick way to get the card up and running and making measurements. Analog outputs can be set, all input channels can be looked at, SCP configurations can be seen, strip chart comparisons performed among any channel, and data can be logged to a disk.

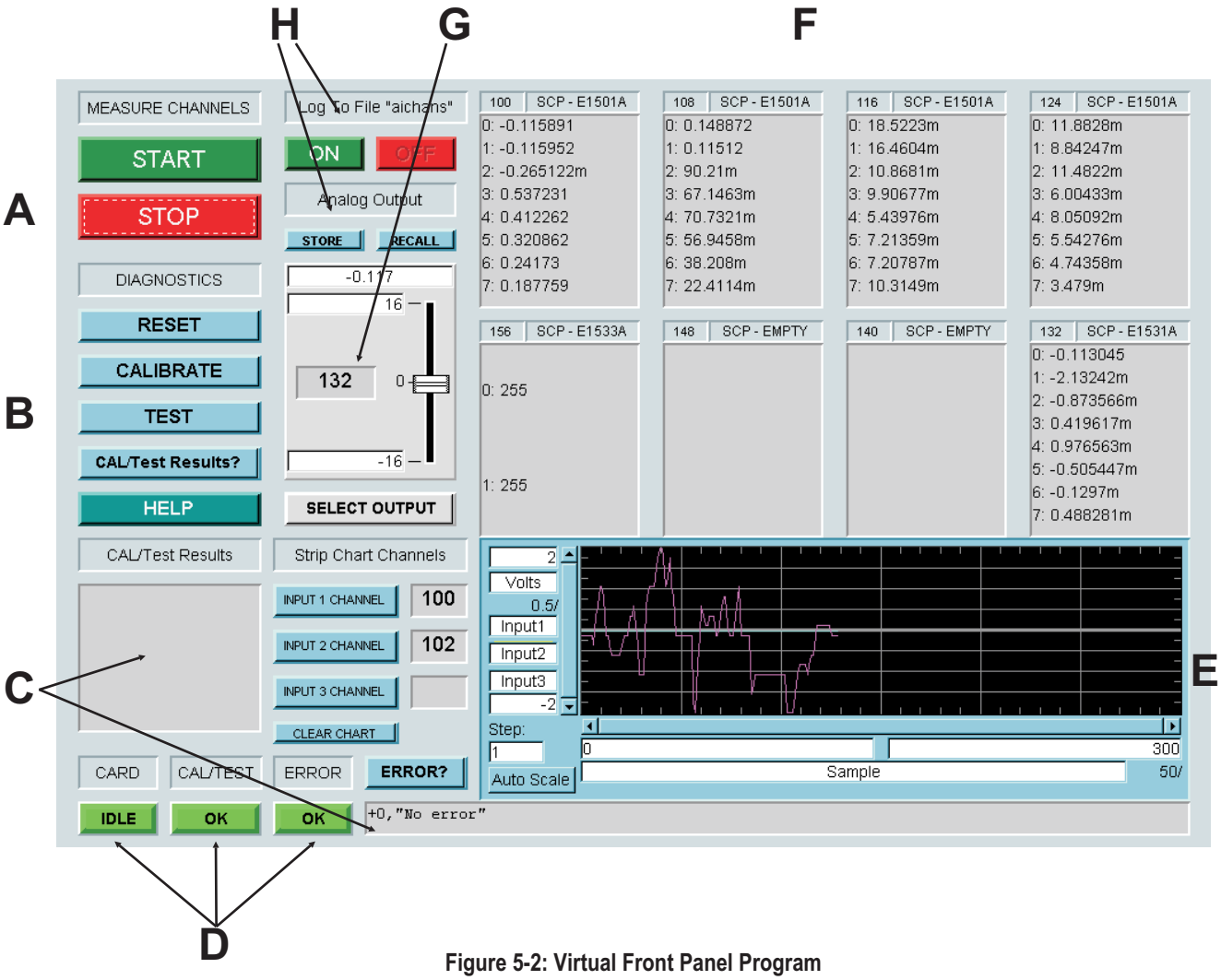


Figure 5-2: Virtual Front Panel Program

The various sections illustrated in Figure 5-2 are described as follows:

A. After executing the RUN on Agilent VEE, a number of operations will take place which analyzes the VT1419A's configuration, sets up SCP's to make measurements and prepares for data acquisition. When the START becomes "LIT" or active, pressing START will begin the processes of acquiring measurements on any and all input SCP's.

Analog input SCP's display volts and digital input SCP's display digital state information in section F. Analog output SCP's are both input and output at the same time. Pressing STOP will temporarily pause the acquisition of data.

B. This is the diagnostics section. The card can be RESET at any time to stop measurement operations, calibration or testing. The CALIBRATE and TEST keys are not active while START in section A is active. Likewise, neither CALIBRATE nor TEST can be active at the same time. CALIBRATE should be performed after the VT1419A has warmed up for 1 hour. Calibration is necessary whenever any SCP modules are added or moved. TEST allows the integrity of any SCP channels to be checked. If errors are present with either calibration or testing, indicators in section D will be lit and CAL/Test Results? and ERROR? can be pressed to determine what errors are present. Both TEST and CALIBRATE may take from 3 to 10 minutes depending upon the configuration of SCP's. Also, CALIBRATE performs a CAL:STORE ADC which stores the calibration constants in non-volatile RAM.

C. These two display areas will indicate errors from calibration or testing. CAL/Test Results? or ERROR? must be pressed to see these results.

D. These are the status monitor lights. CARD is either IDLE, MEAS, or BUSY, which indicates no operations pending, START active or performing CALIBRATION or TEST. CAL/TEST is either OK or an ERR condition. If ERR, data will be present in section C. ERROR is either OK or ERR which indicates the need to press the ERROR? button.

E. This is the strip chart area. Up to three traces can be selected from any of the input channels seen in the section F display. Pressing INPUT 1,2,3 will provide valid selections. The current channel will be displayed next to the strip chart. Traces are colored. The CLEAR button will erase all current traces. Auto Scale will compress all current data into the available window. Update rates vary with the processing power of the computer, but can range from sub-second to several second updates.

F. This is the section that displays the type of SCP and its channel input values when START is active. Note that the beginning channel number is displayed in the upper left corner of each SCP window. Channel data is displayed as 0,1,2.... so that designator must be added to the upper left corner number to obtain the actual channel number of the SCP.

G. This is the Analog Output selector. Pressing SELECT OUTPUT will provide a list of all available analog output channels. Choosing one will allow the output of any analog output channel to be modified. Since all analog output SCP's also display their output values as input channels, the results of changing the output values in section F can be seen when START is active. Please note that these output values are only accurate to within 10% of the programmed value. These are

sanity check readings. The actual output will be precisely what was programmed if the VT1419A has been calibrated and an analog output can be connected to one of the analog input channels to see exactly what values are being set. When returning to a previously selected output channel, the Analog Output slider will adjust itself to the last programmed value used when the other channel was selected.

H. These two sections provide some added flexibility. Under the Analog Output section, two buttons called STORE and RECALL can be seen. Once the values of all the analog outputs have been programmed, press the STORE button to save the output states. If RESET is pressed or the program is restarted later, press RECALL to restore all those programmed values.

The LOG ON/OFF buttons permit the measurement results to be logged from the first 32 analog input channels to a file named “aichans”. Each time this Agilent VEE example is “RUN,” this file is cleared. Successive ON/OFF selections while START is active will append data to the file. To view this data later, run the Agilent VEE program *dlgr1419.vee* and specify the filename “aichans” as the Input Data File.

Calibration

cal_1419.vee: This program operates stand-alone. However, it is easy to merge it directly into VEE application programs to provide easy access to the calibration sequence. The Agilent VEE detail view is all that is developed as illustrated in Figure 5-3. A counter in the upper right-hand section of the detail gives the number of seconds elapsed so it can be determined if progress is being made.

This program performs a *CAL? and CAL:STORE ADC to perform a complete calibration of the VT1419A card. Any errors detected are displayed so that the exact channels in question can be identified. Calibration may take from 3 to 10 or more minutes to occur, depending upon the number and type of SCPs loaded.

Calibration should be performed whenever SCP's are moved or added. After turn-ON, wait 1 hour for the VT1419A to reach temperature stabilization before performing calibration.

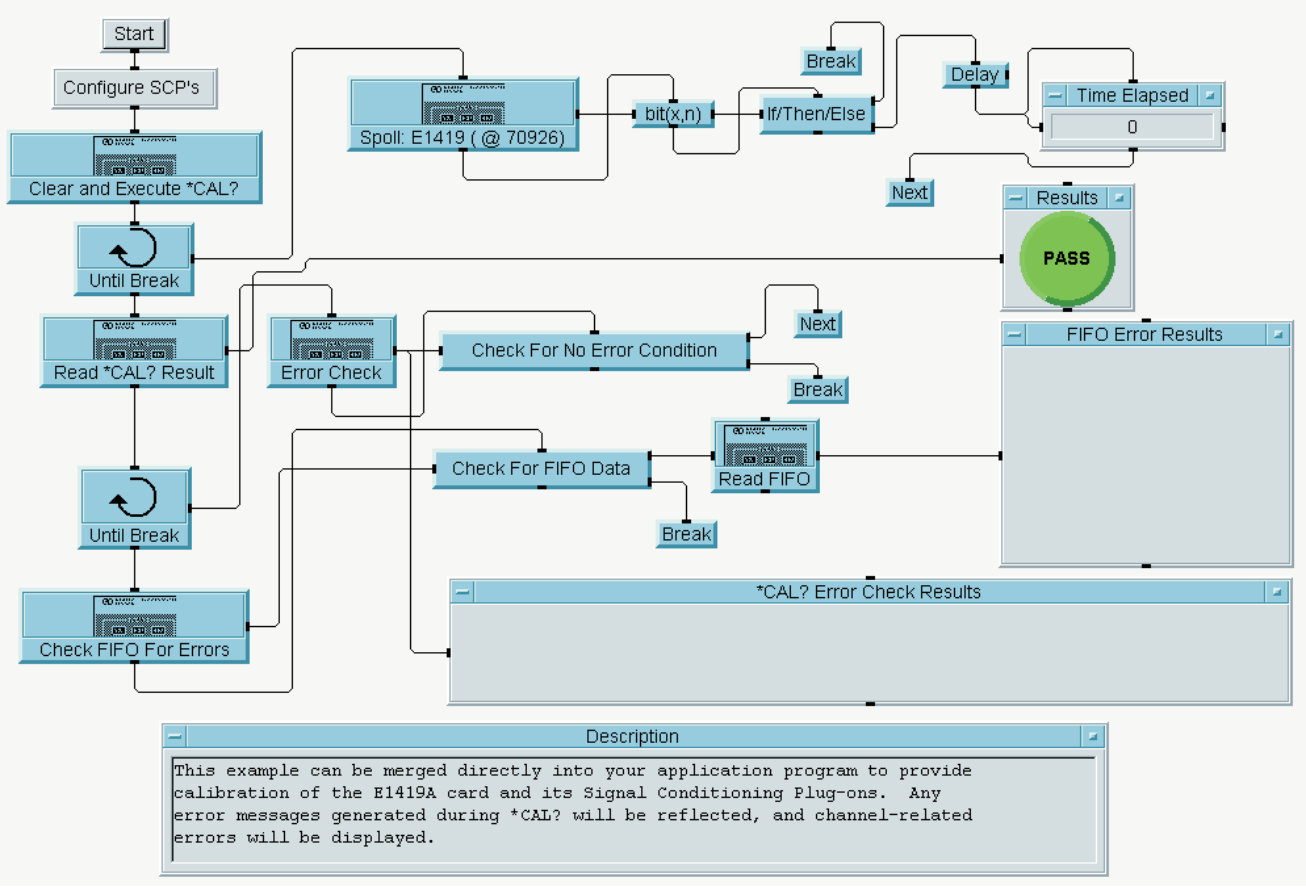


Figure 5-3: Calibration Detail View

Function Test

test1419.vee: This program operates stand-alone. However, it is easy to merge it directly into a VEE application program to provide easy access to the testing sequence. The Agilent VEE detail view is all that is developed as illustrated in Figure 5-4. A counter in the upper right-hand section of the detail gives the number of seconds elapsed so that it can be determined if progress is being made.

This program performs a *TST?. Any errors detected will be displayed so that the exact channels in question can be identified. Testing may take from 3 to 10 or more minutes to occur, depending upon the number and type of SCPs loaded.

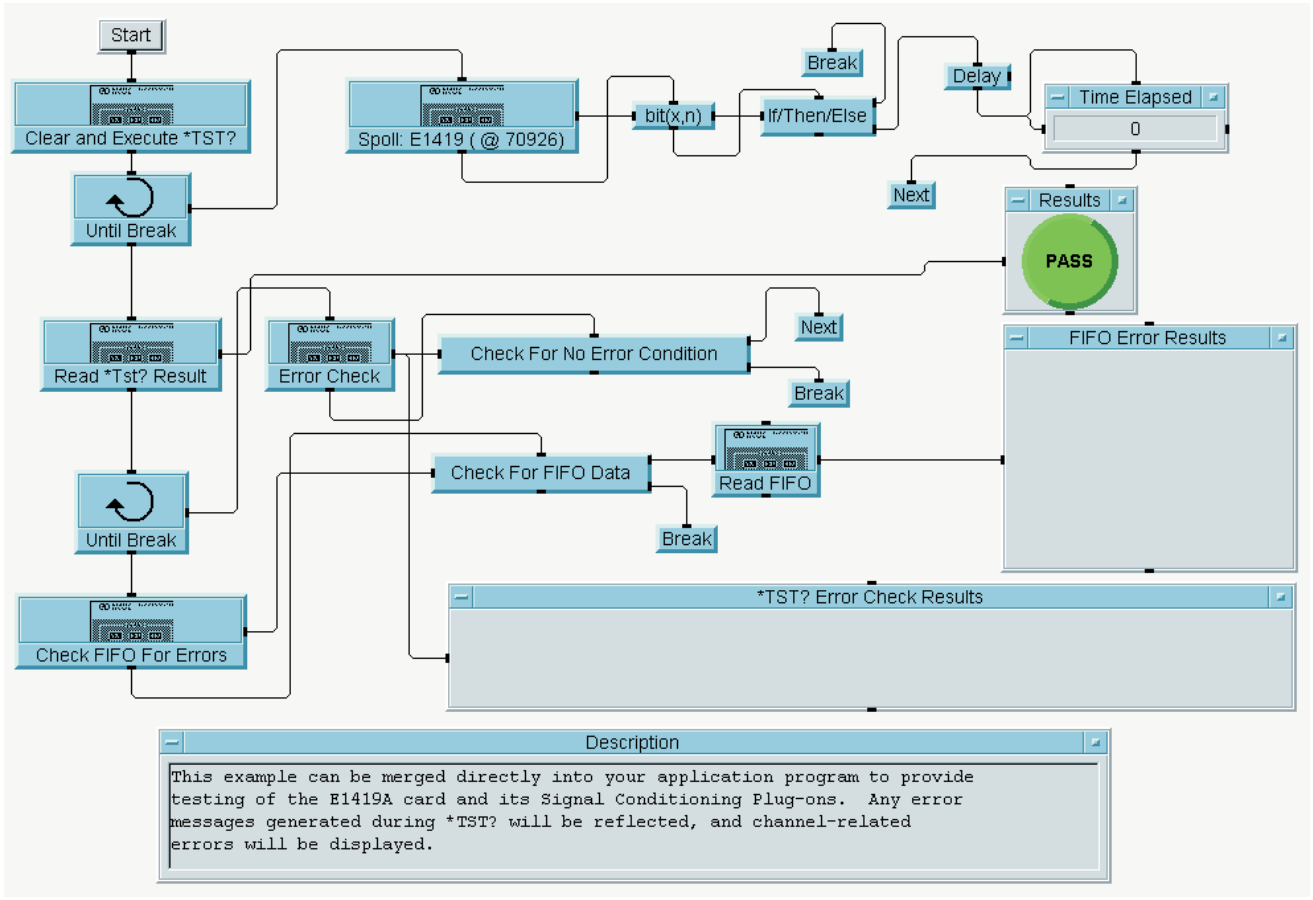


Figure 5-4: Functional Test Detail View

Programming Model Example

temp1419.vee: This program operates stand-alone. It is written to follow the programming model outlined in Chapter 3. Examples can be found for writing multiple algorithms, variable monitoring and modification, interrupts, temperature measurements and data display. Please refer to Figure 5-5 for the remainder of the discussion.

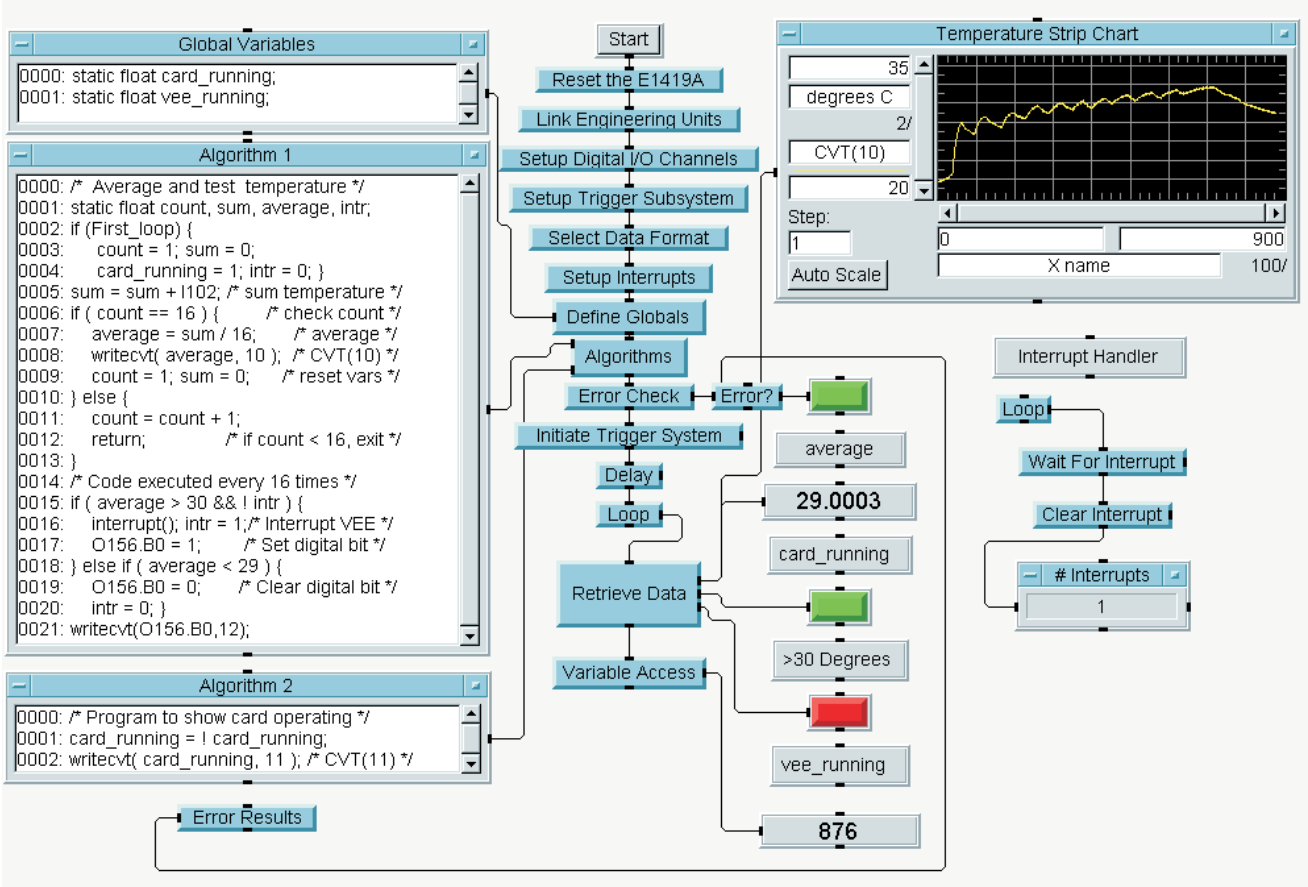


Figure 5-5: Programming Model Detail View

The hardware configuration assumes that a type T thermocouple is attached to channel 102, that the thermocouple reference sensor is attached to channel 103 and that there is a digital output channel at 156. Figure 5-1 illustrates the necessary wiring connections for this and the other VT1419A/Agilent VEE examples. Of particular interest here is that the thermocouple is placed at a channel less than the reference junction channel. Since the VT1419A's C-compiler sorts all channels in numerical order for scanning by the A/D at runtime, that assignment must be overridden with the SENS:REF:CHAN command as illustrated in Link Engineering Units so that the reference channel is scanned BEFORE the thermocouple channel that needs the reference junction compensation.

The VT1419A Algorithms are written inside Agilent VEE text boxes as a one-dimension array of text lines. The Define Globals and Algorithms blocks show how these text boxes are downloaded into the VT1419A. This makes VT1419A C program development very easy.

Note that there are two Agilent VEE threads of operation as indicated by the two START icons. This means that proper operation will only take place if the Agilent VEE 'RUN' button is pressed. The Interrupt Handler simply waits for the interrupt() routine in the VT1419A to execute and assert the VT1419A's VXI interrupt line. The Interrupt Handler is simply monitoring the out-of-bound condition of the card. If the card indicates the temperature of the thermocouple rises above 30 °C, an interrupt is generated. The interrupt is re-enabled after its occurrence. Please note in Algorithm 1 that an interrupt is only allowed to occur once when passing through 30 °C. After which, the card DOES NOT interrupt again until the temperature falls below 29 °C and again passes through 30 °C. This is done to illustrate the concept of hysteresis applied to interrupts. If the VT1419A were allowed to interrupt Agilent VEE constantly while above 30 °C, the external computer would be bombarded with interrupts which would lower the overall performance. This technique achieves the needed signal to Agilent VEE but adds the hysteresis to avoid constant interrupts.

CVT location 12 is used to reflect the state of the digital output channel used to respond to the over-temperature condition. That condition is reflected back to Agilent VEE as an LED.

Other interesting features include reading and writing of variables. Algorithm 2 takes the global variable "card_running" and complements it each time it executes. It then writes that value to CVT location 11. Algorithms 2 has been configured by the ALG:SCAN:RATIO command to execute every 500 triggers, as set in the Algorithms object. Since the trigger timer is set to 2 milliseconds (Setup Trigger Subsystem), Algorithm 2 executes once every 1 second and thereby causes the card_running LED to blink at 1 second intervals. This is a good sanity check for the Agilent VEE program to know that the VT1419A is running. If it had stopped for some reason, the LED would not be flashing.

Another check to know that Agilent VEE is running is performed with the Variable Access object. Agilent VEE reads the value of the global "vee_running," increments it by one and re-writes that value back to the VT1419A. Although not included in this example, an algorithm could detect that the variable was changing and know that Agilent VEE was still executing. This might be a situation where if Agilent VEE were to be taken off-line or stopped, the VT1419A could detect the situation and begin a possible shut-down of operations by itself.

Note that Algorithm 1 performs an average of sixteen temperature readings before writing the result to CVT location 10. Each time the algorithm executes, a check is performed to see if it has executed sixteen times. If not, only the sum and count is affected and the routine exits prematurely. The average is done to provide quieter readings when trying to make temperature measurements at high speed with a non-filter/non-gain SCP. This is a caution. High accuracy and low drift temperature measurements are better with SCP's that have gain and filtering. However, decent 1 - 3 °C accuracy can be attained with the VT1501A straight-through SCP's which is typically very reasonable for thermocouples.

Spend some time opening each of the objects in this example and see what SCPI commands are used and how they relate back to concepts in Chapter 3. See Chapter 6 - the SCPI reference - for more detailed information on each command.

Error Checking

err_1419.vee: This program operates stand-alone. However, it is designed to be merged into an application program to provide an object that will query every error stored in the VT1419A's error queue. It's a good debugging tool because it is self-contained. A good technique would be to turn this entire object into a function that can be called after each major programming object in the application.

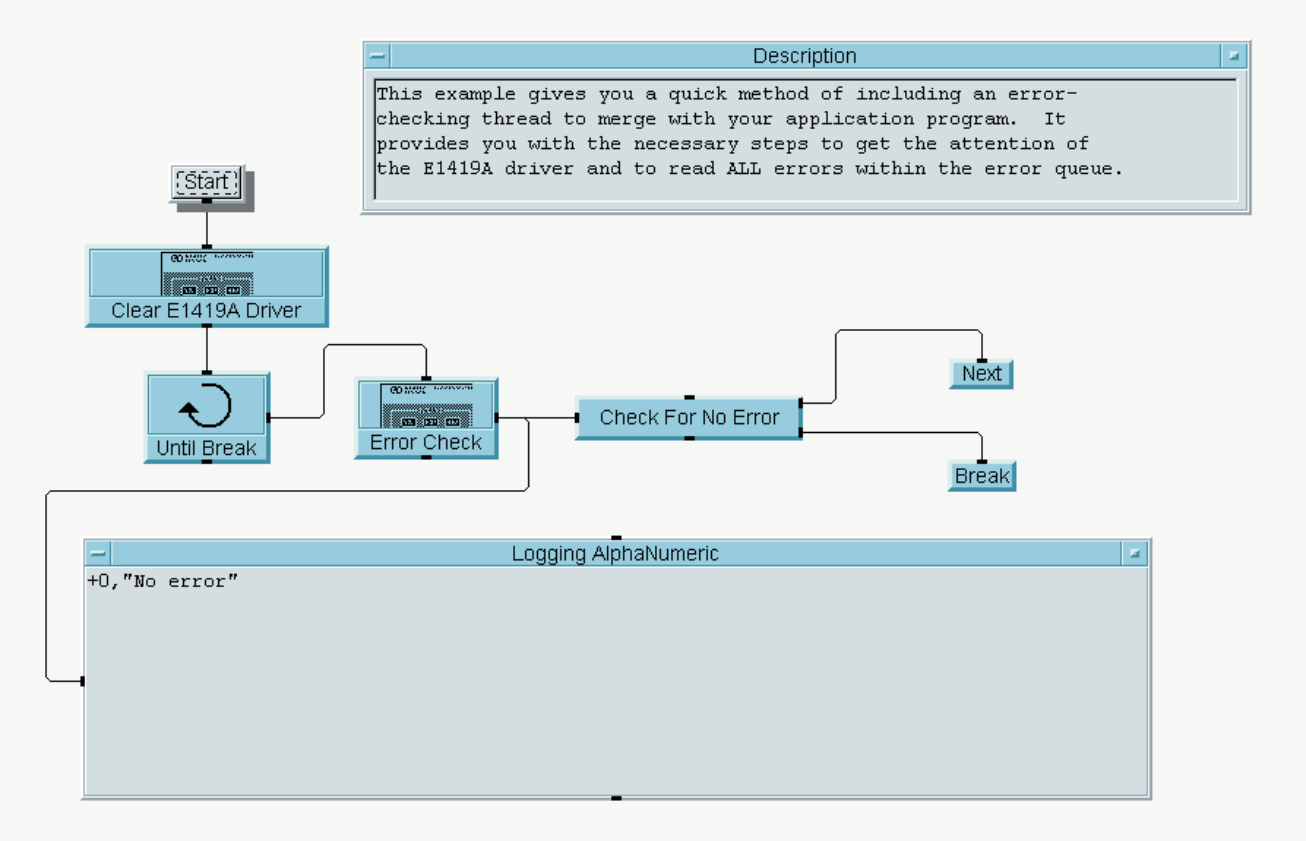

Description
This example gives you a quick method of including an error-
checking thread to merge with your application program. It
provides you with the necessary steps to get the attention of
the E1419A driver and to read ALL errors within the error queue.
Start
Clear E1419A Driver
Until Break
Error Check
Check For No Error
Next
Break
Logging AlphaNumeric
+0,"No error"

Figure 5-6: Error Checking Detail View

Configuration Display

scp_1419.vee: This program operates stand-alone. However, it is designed to be merged into an application program to provide a means of displaying the driver and firmware revisions and identify which SCP's are loaded into the eight SCP slots. Just like the previous error checking example, it can be made a callable function in Agilent VEE and can be inserted it into the application.

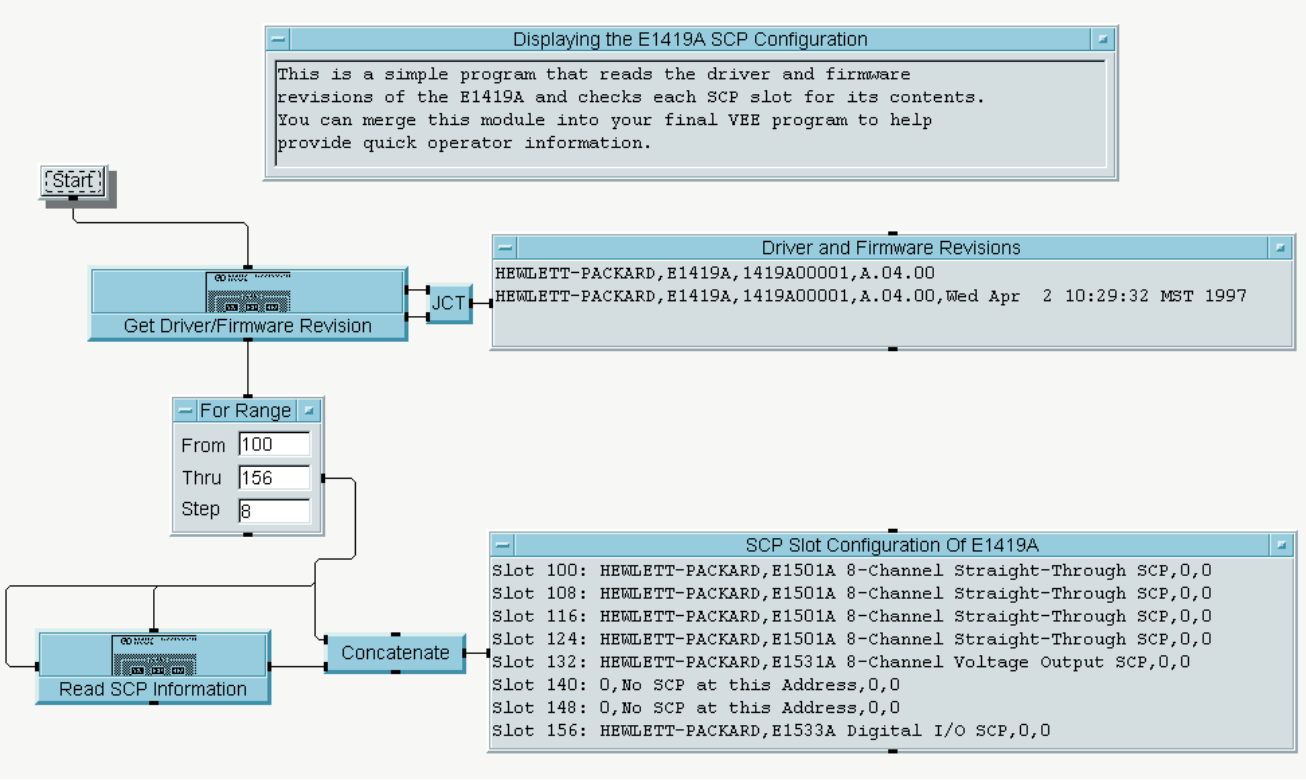

Displaying the E1419A SCP Configuration
This is a simple program that reads the driver and firmware
revisions of the E1419A and checks each SCP slot for its contents.
You can merge this module into your final VEE program to help
provide quick operator information.
Start
Get Driver/Firmware Revision
JCT
Driver and Firmware Revisions
HEWLETT-PACKARD,E1419A,1419A00001,A.04.00
HEWLETT-PACKARD,E1419A,1419A00001,A.04.00,Wed Apr 2 10:29:32 MST 1997
For Range
From 100
Thru 156
Step 8
SCP Slot Configuration Of E1419A
Slot 100: HEWLETT-PACKARD,E1501A 8-Channel Straight-Through SCP,0,0
Slot 108: HEWLETT-PACKARD,E1501A 8-Channel Straight-Through SCP,0,0
Slot 116: HEWLETT-PACKARD,E1501A 8-Channel Straight-Through SCP,0,0
Slot 124: HEWLETT-PACKARD,E1501A 8-Channel Straight-Through SCP,0,0
Slot 132: HEWLETT-PACKARD,E1531A 8-Channel Voltage Output SCP,0,0
Slot 140: 0,No SCP at this Address,0,0
Slot 148: 0,No SCP at this Address,0,0
Slot 156: HEWLETT-PACKARD,E1533A Digital I/O SCP,0,0
Concatenate
Read SCP Information

Figure 5-7: Configuration Display Detail View

Engineering Unit Conversion

eu_1419.vee: This program is designed to be merged into an application program. It provides all the necessary objects to build custom EU table conversion on any of the VT1419A's 64 input channels. The program *eufn1419.vee* demonstrates how to use this module.

The Agilent VEE programming necessary to build the tables is somewhat complex and beyond the scope of this text. In fact, there is an additional program written in C that is called by this module: pc_eu.exe. Both the source code for this program and the DOS executable are included with the VT1419A examples. The source code is provided so that the program can be compiled in other platforms where Agilent VEE is supported: UNIX, etc. A command similar to "cc -Aa eu_141x.c -o unix_eu -lm" would be issued which would compile the program under a typical UNIX environment. Note that the name unix_eu and pc_eu have significant meaning to this module.

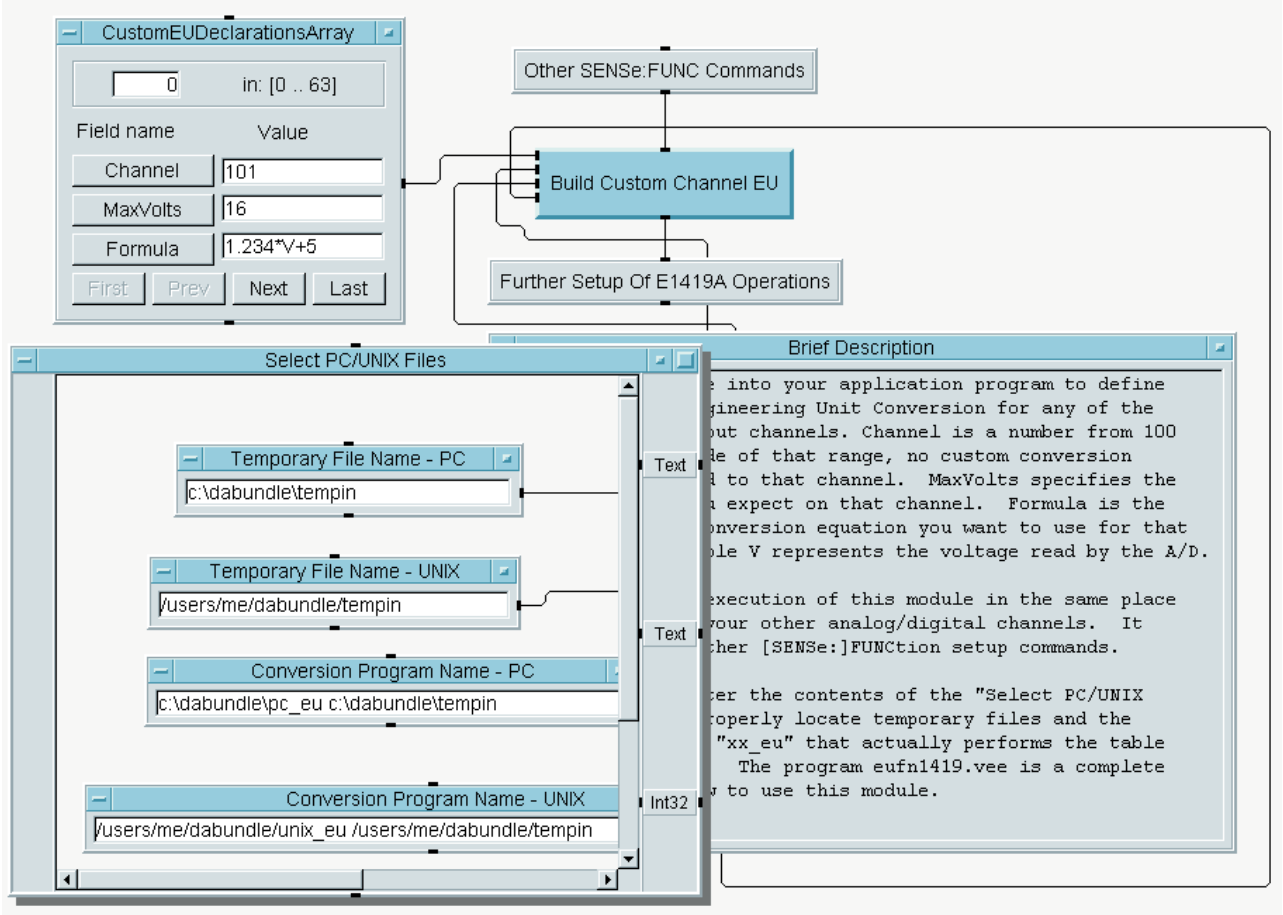


Figure 5-8: Custom EU Conversion Detail View

Figure 5-8 illustrates where this module would be integrated into a VEE application program. This is a part of the Link Engineering Units setup that was learned in Chapter 3. Simply select the channel, the maximum voltage expect to be seen on that channel (MaxVolts represents ±voltage), and enter any formula using the available Agilent VEE math functions. It's that simple!

The only restriction is that the variable "V" must be used representing the voltage read from the channel. When the selected channel is read by the VT1419A's A/D, that voltage will be "inserted" into the formula just as represented in the example. Appendix E discusses custom function table generation which is based upon the same principle as EU table conversion. EU conversion executes within a few microseconds, so there is no problem with running the VT1419A sample rate at 100 kHz (10 μs per sample).

The CustomEUDeclarationsArray can hold up to 64 channel definitions. Any valid channel number 100-163 for an Analog Input Channel will cause the associated table to be built and downloaded into the VT1419A's EU table memory space. Leaving the field Channel at "0" will cause that channel to be ignored by this module. Any *RST or power-ON condition will require re-execution of this module.

The object Select PC/UNIX Files contains file name and directory paths necessary to make the module execute properly on a PC or UNIX platform. Figure 5-8 also shows that object open for observation. The default location of the VT1419A example programs is "c:\dabundle." A typical UNIX path is included for example. The example uses the Agilent VEE function whichOS() to determine which directory structure to use.

Custom Function Generation

fn_1419.vee: This program is designed to be merged into an application program. It provides all the necessary objects to build up to 32 custom functions callable from VT1419A algorithms. The program *eufn1419.vee* demonstrates how to use this module.

The Agilent VEE programming necessary to build the tables is somewhat complex and beyond the scope of this text. In fact, there is an additional program written in C that is called by this module: pc_fn.exe. Both the source code for this program and the DOS executable are included with the VT1419A examples. The source code is provided so the the program can be compiled on other platforms where Agilent VEE is supported (UNIX, etc.). A command similar to “cc -Aa fn_141x.c -o unix_fn -lm” would be issued which would compile the program under a typical UNIX environment. Note that the name unix_fn and pc_fn have significant meaning to this module.

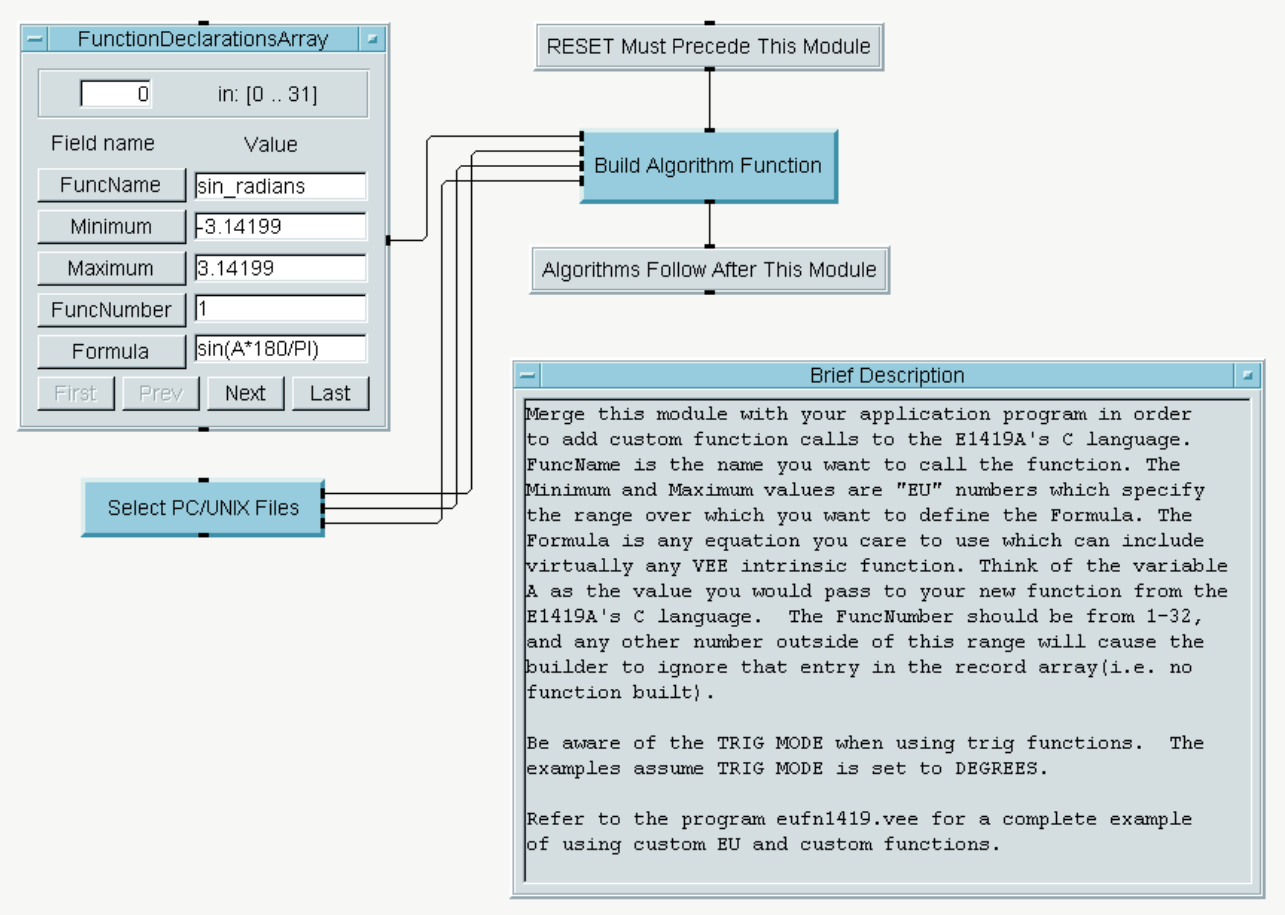

FunctionDeclarationsArray
0
in: [0 .. 31]
Field name
Value
FuncName
sin_radians
Minimum
-3.14199
Maximum
3.14199
FuncNumber
1
Formula
sin(A*180/PI)
First
Prev
Next
Last
RESET Must Precede This Module
Build Algorithm Function
Algorithms Follow After This Module
Select PC/UNIX Files
Brief Description
Merge this module with your application program in order
to add custom function calls to the E1419A's C language.
FuncName is the name you want to call the function. The
Minimum and Maximum values are "EU" numbers which specify
the range over which you want to define the Formula. The
Formula is any equation you care to use which can include
virtually any VEE intrinsic function. Think of the variable
A as the value you would pass to your new function from the
E1419A's C language. The FuncNumber should be from 1-32,
and any other number outside of this range will cause the
builder to ignore that entry in the record array(i.e. no
function built).
Be aware of the TRIG MODE when using trig functions. The
examples assume TRIG MODE is set to DEGREES.
Refer to the program eufn1419.vee for a complete example
of using custom EU and custom functions.

Figure 5-9: Custom Function Generation

Figure 5-9 illustrates where this module would be integrated into a VEE application program. This module must come after RESET and before any algorithm is defined that would use a function. Simply pick the name of the function, the domain of input values (Minimum and Maximum), a unique function number between 1 and 32 and the formula to be used, which includes any Agilent VEE math function. It's that simple!

The only restriction is that the variable "A" must be used to represent the value that will be passed to the function from the C algorithm. When the function is called, that value will be "inserted" into the formula just as represented in the formula box.

Also note that the accuracy of this piece-wise linear table conversion technique is highly dependent upon the non-linearity and domain over which the tables are built. The table consists of 128 segments spread over a binary representation of the domain limits. Appendix E gives some background information on the capabilities and limitations of this programming technique.

The FunctionDeclarationsArray can hold up to 32 function definitions. Any valid function number 1-32 will cause the associated table to be built and downloaded into the VT1419A's function table memory space. A value of "0" for any FuncNumber will cause that function to be ignored and not downloaded. Any *RST or power-ON condition will require re-execution of this module.

The object Select PC/UNIX Files contains file name and directory paths necessary to make the module execute properly on PC or UNIX platforms. Figure 5-8 of the previous example shows that object open for observation. Note that the default location of the VT1419A example programs is "c:\dabundle." A typical UNIX path is included for example. The example uses the Agilent VEE function whichOS() to determine which directory structure to use.

Custom EU/Function Example

eufn1419.vee: This program operates stand-alone. It is designed to show how easy it is to generate complicated EU conversion and Custom functions by simply entering in channel numbers, function names and algebraic expressions. Need to convert volts to pressure or perform a square-root operation? Use this program to see how easy it is to perform.

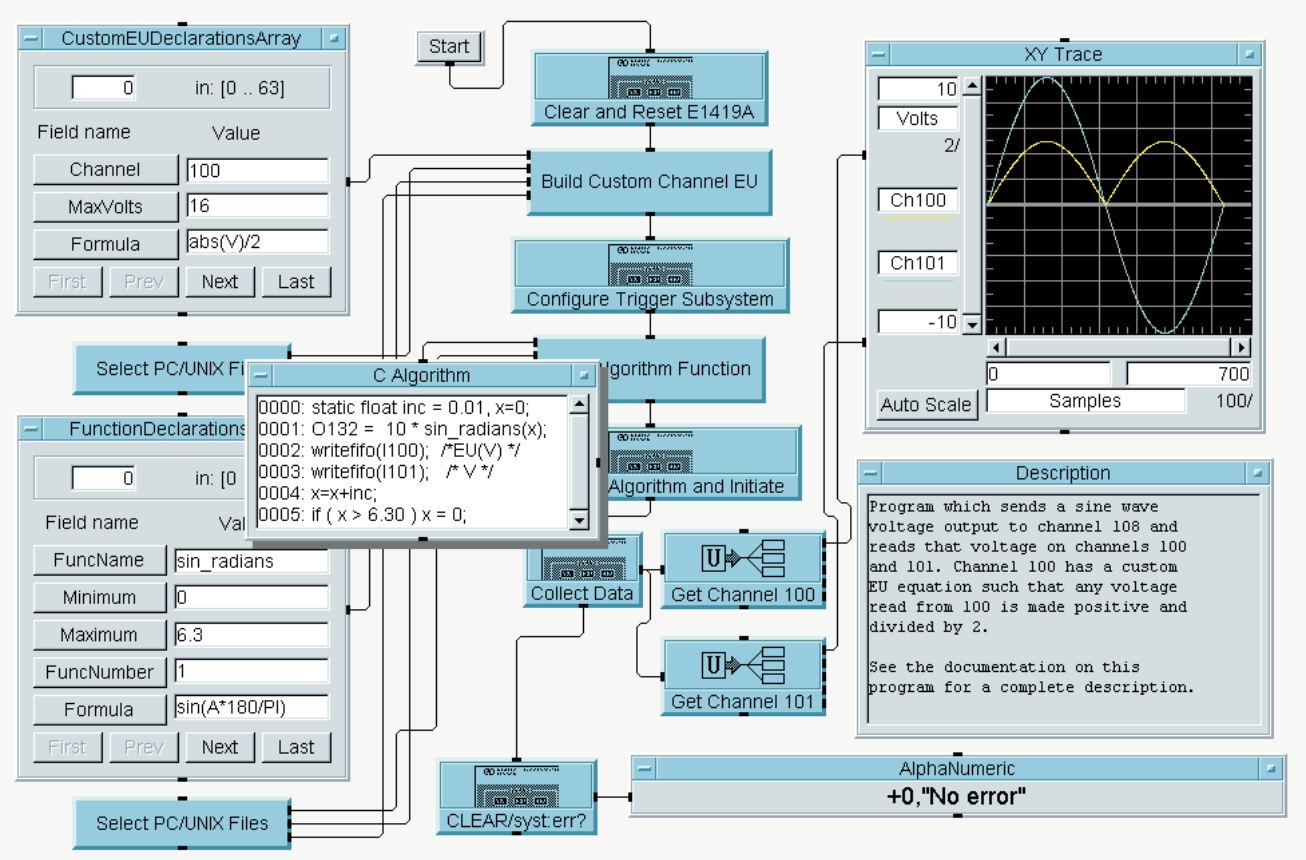


Figure 5-10: Custom EU/Function Example Detailed View

This program illustrates how to generate a sine wave from a custom function that is then used to program an analog output. The analog output (channel 132) is assumed wired to analog input channels 100 and 101. Channel 101 is the straight voltage from channel 132 and channel 100 is the same voltage but processed by the EU conversion formula for channel 100, as defined in the CustomEUDeclarationArray. The EU conversion formula simply takes the voltage read from channel 100, takes its absolute value and divides it by 2.

Notice that the domain of the sin_radians() function is limited to 0-6.3, which represent a 0-2*PI interval. Each time the algorithm executes, it writes the new value of O132 based upon the sin_radians() function with the passed parameter "inc." The "inc" parameter is incremented once for each trigger since each trigger

causes the algorithm to execute. When “inc” exceeds 6.3, it is set back to 0. Also note that the analog input voltages are sent to the FIFO after each trigger. The object Collect Data retrieves the voltage pairs and assembles them into a 2-dimension array which is then separated by Get Channel 100 and Get Channel 101. The results are passed on to the X-Y trace for display.

Curve Fitting and EU Generation

regr1419.vee: This program operates stand-alone. It shows how the Agilent VEE regression tools can be used to generate a polynomial equation to fit volts and pressure. The generated equation can then be used in the *eu_1419.vee* module for converting volts to pressure during data acquisition of the VT1419A.

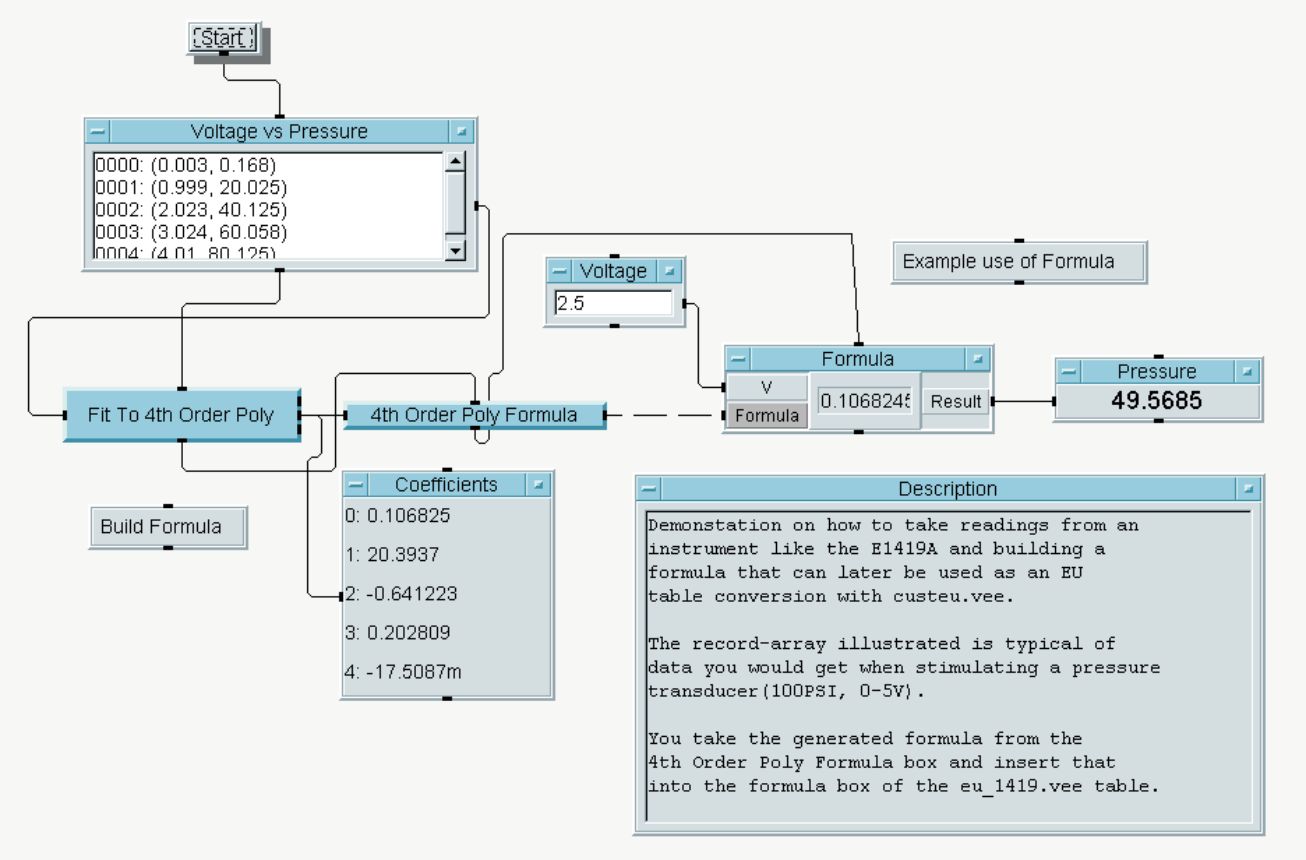

Start
Voltage vs Pressure
0000: (0.003, 0.168)
0001: (0.999, 20.025)
0002: (2.023, 40.125)
0003: (3.024, 60.058)
Voltage
2.5
Example use of Formula
Formula
V
Formula
Result
Pressure
49.5685
Fit To 4th Order Poly
4th Order Poly Formula
Coefficients
0: 0.106825
1: 20.3937
2: -0.641223
3: 0.202809
4: -17.5087m
Build Formula
Description
Demonstation on how to take readings from an instrument like the E1419A and building a formula that can later be used as an EU table conversion with custeu.vee.
The record-array illustrated is typical of data you would get when stimulating a pressure transducer(100PSI, 0-5V).
You take the generated formula from the 4th Order Poly Formula box and insert that into the formula box of the eu_1419.vee table.

Figure 5-11: Curve Fitting and EU Generation

The “Fit To 4th Order Poly” object takes the data pairs entered into the “Voltage vs. Pressure” text object and generates the coefficients that can be entered into a 4th order polynomial. The coefficients are automatically entered into the “4th Order Poly Formula” object and a dry-lab example of a 2.5 volt input to the formula results in the 49.5685 PSI output. This is what the EU conversion would perform in the VT1419A if that 4th order polynomial were entered into the EU Conversion table object. Simply use the same formula generated by this example along with the specified coefficients.

Interrupt Handling

intr1419.vee: This program operates stand-alone. This is an example program that shows how to create multiple threads of operation in Agilent VEE to respond to a FIFO half-full interrupt. It teaches the concept of interrupt driven programming. The example *temp1419.vee* also incorporates a slightly different version of interrupt processing that can enhance learning.

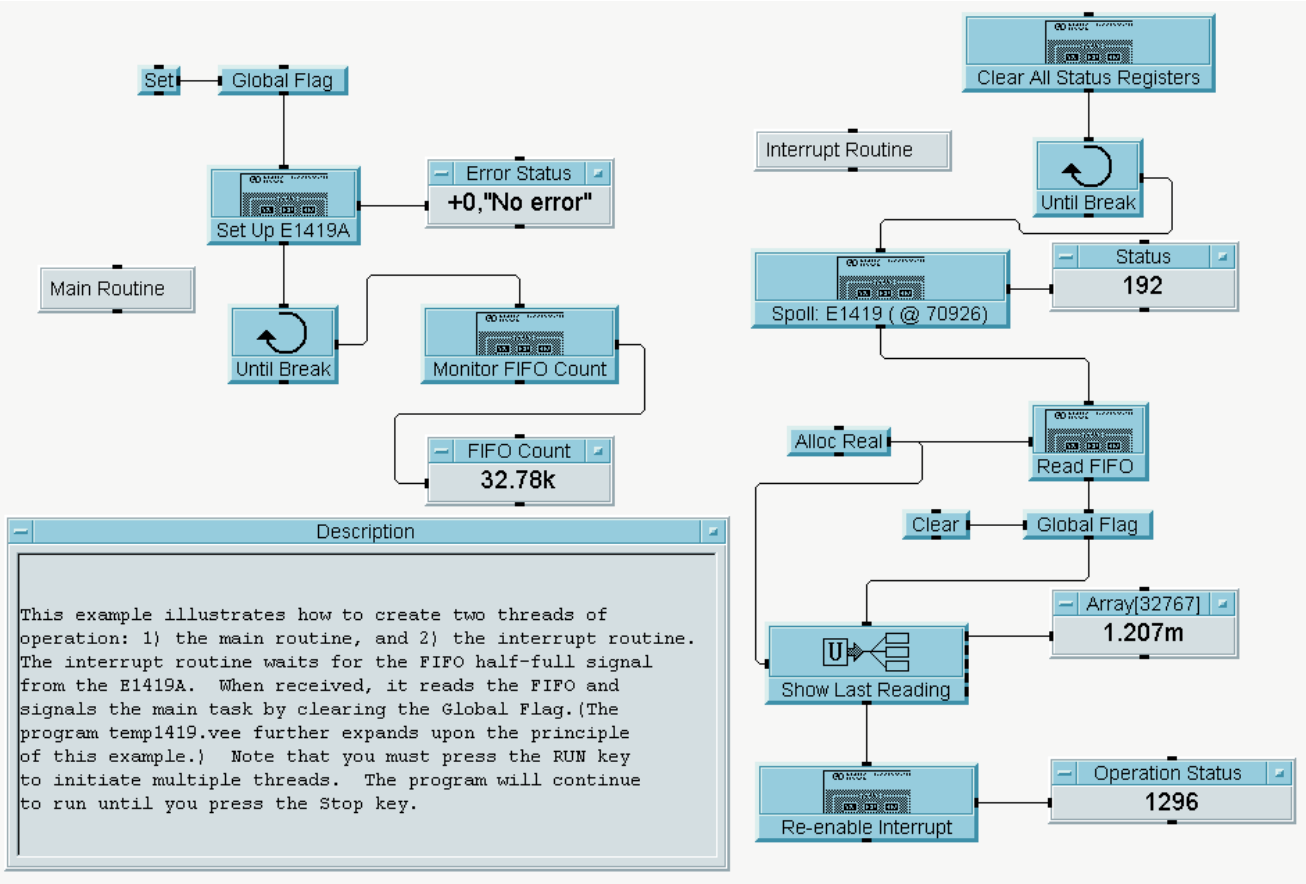

Set
Global Flag
Set Up E1419A
Error Status
+0,"No error"
Main Routine
Until Break
Monitor FIFO Count
FIFO Count
32.78k
Description
This example illustrates how to create two threads of operation: 1) the main routine, and 2) the interrupt routine. The interrupt routine waits for the FIFO half-full signal from the E1419A. When received, it reads the FIFO and signals the main task by clearing the Global Flag.(The program temp1419.vee further expands upon the principle of this example.) Note that you must press the RUN key to initiate multiple threads. The program will continue to run until you press the Stop key.
Clear All Status Registers
Interrupt Routine
Until Break
Status
192
Spoll: E1419 (@ 70926)
Alloc Real
Read FIFO
Clear
Global Flag
Array[32767]
1.207m
Show Last Reading
Re-enable Interrupt
Operation Status
1296

Figure 5-12: Interrupt Handling Detailed View

This example is really quite simple. It's the technique of knowing how to set up Agilent VEE to handle interrupts that is tricky. The Interrupt Handler has a REPEAT loop connected directly to the Spoll object which monitors the GPIB waiting for the interrupt condition that was configured. The "Set Up E1419" object shows the necessary SCPI commands to configure for an interrupt, shows a simple algorithm that places readings into the FIFO and configures the trigger subsystem. All these topics are covered in Chapter 3 with details about the various SCPI commands in Chapter 6.

The Interrupt Handler simply waits for the FIFO-HALF-FULL interrupt, reads half the FIFO, displays the result or one reading and re-enables the condition once again. When this example is understood, it will be easy to understand how to handle other interrupts which are described in the Status Subsystem section in Chapter 3. The example *temp1419.vee* is another program that can be loaded that demonstrates interrupt handling.

Simple Data Logger Example

dlgr1419.vee: This program operates stand-alone. It illustrates how to configure the VT1419A to collect data, store that data into its FIFO and retrieve that data for display on a strip chart and optional logging to a file. This program can also be used to read stored data files generated by both this examples and the *panl1419.vee* example. The example can easily be modified to a more complicated version or pieces can be cut and pasted where needed.

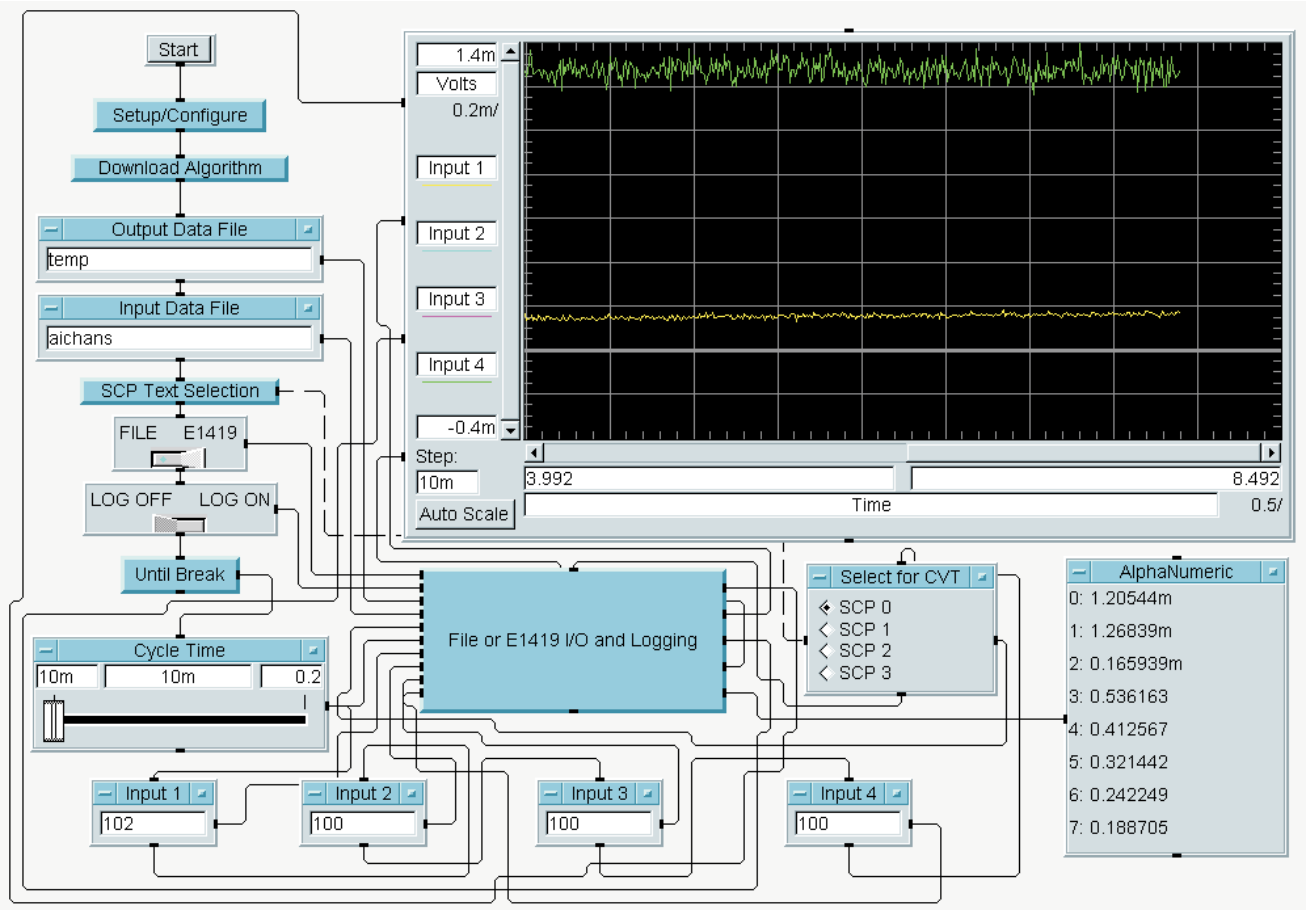


Figure 5-13: Simple Data Logger

The first object, Setup/Configure, can be used to configure the VT1419A trigger subsystem, SCPs, and data formats. Since the VT1419A comes pre-configured with four analog input SCPs in the first four slots, this example will concentrate only on those channels and leave them configured for voltage input. Since the example *panl1419.vee* also assumes this condition, data stored by that example's logging function can also be read by this example. If desired, refer to the example *temp1419.vee* to see how channels can be configured for temperature measurements using SCPI commands. Chapter 3 also illustrates how to configure analog channels for other measurements such as resistance, for example.

Note the “TRIG:TIMER 0.01" command will establish the scan trigger rate at which measurements are taken and C algorithms are executed. This rate was chosen purposely to illustrate the concept of slowing down data acquisition at multiples of 10 ms. Also note that the data format of ”FORM REAL,32" is used so the maximum rate can be achieved when reading data from the FIFO.

The second object, Download Algorithm, illustrates how to download a C program to access the channel variables for input measurements. This object consists of a REPEAT loop with a count range to automatically generate 32 of the “writefifo(Ixx);” statements. The Ixx will range from I100-I131, which represents each of the first 32 analog input channels. The only function this algorithm will have is to read all 32 analog input values for each scan trigger and place that data into the FIFO.

The Output and Input Data File text boxes allow names of data files to be specified. The Output Data File assumes the working directory unless the entire path is specified. This file will be cleared upon executing the “RUN” key of Agilent VEE. If the LOG ON switch is set, all data acquired will be written to the specified data file. If the VT1419A switch is selected, then data is acquired from the actual input channels. If FILE is selected, data is read from the specified Input Data File as though it were coming from the input channels. The assumption is that this data file was created with this example using the LOG ON mode or created with the logging function of the example *panl1419.vee*. Note that both the LOG ON/OFF and the FILE/E1419 switches come BEFORE the REPEAT loop. Therefore, these parameters cannot be modified AFTER executing the “RUN.”

The REPEAT provides the rate at which Agilent VEE can perform the following actions:

- Reads the desired algorithm execution rate for storing data into the FIFO.
- Reads the desired channels to display on the strip chart.
- Reads 10-scans (320 values) of data from the FIFO.
- Writes 10 readings for each selected channel to the strip chart.
- Reads the desired SCP channels to display a Current Value Table (CVT) of data returned and displays that data.

The more operations placed in this loop, the more time will placed between accesses to the FIFO. The execution speed of Agilent VEE is dependent upon the speed of the computer, how many I/O operations it is performing, and whether or not the Compiled mode of Agilent VEE 4.0 is being used. If running a Pentium-class PC, the REPEAT loop will easily keep up with the acquisition rate of the VT1419A card and provide very near real-time data on the strip chart. Slower computers may fall behind. The TRIG:TIMER interval can be altered to slow down the acquisition rate or move the slider control to slow down the rate of placing data into the FIFO.

Note that one can select which SCP data will to be monitored on the alphanumeric display. Each SCP can have up to eight channels of analog input, so selecting SCP 0-3 will allow for all eight channels to be displayed. The data displayed is just one of the ten readings acquired from the 320 FIFO readings. Normally, the better choice is to use the VT1419A’s CVT and read that directly; however, since the data was already read, adding the additional I/O statement to fetch the eight channels from the CVT is an unnecessary performance slow-down for this application.

The four Integer input boxes labeled Input 1-4 specify which channels will be displayed on the strip chart. These are scanned as part of the REPEAT loop that acquires readings from the VT1419A card. Ten readings for each of the selected channels are fetched from the FIFO data and sent to the strip chart.

The Cycle Time object allows the rate at which data is placed in the FIFO by the VT1419A's C algorithm to be slowed down. The SCPI command ALG:SCAN:RATIO is used to cause the C algorithm to skip execution intervals established by the scan triggers. Since the "TRIG:TIMER 0.01" command was issued during Setup/Configure, this slider will convert to multiples of this rate. For example, if the 0.04 second Cycle Time is selected, then the C algorithm will only execute every four scan triggers.

The default 10 ms interval of the scan trigger is also used in Agilent VEE's strip chart object. So, if the Cycle Time is left set to 10 ms and the Step size is left to 10 ms, the strip chart data will represent the actual data acquisition time. If the Cycle Time is modified, the Step on the strip chart should also be modified. Unfortunately, the Step is not one that can be modified by adding an input terminal to the object. It can, however, be modified in real-time with a keyboard entry. Keep in mind that the new step value will be assumed for all previous data too. Therefore, it's best to select a rate, program the Step value, and then "RUN" the Agilent VEE example for the most accurate results.

Modification of Variables and Arrays

updt1419.vee: This program operates stand-alone. This example shows how operator interaction with running algorithms takes place and how to download changes for both scalar and array variables.

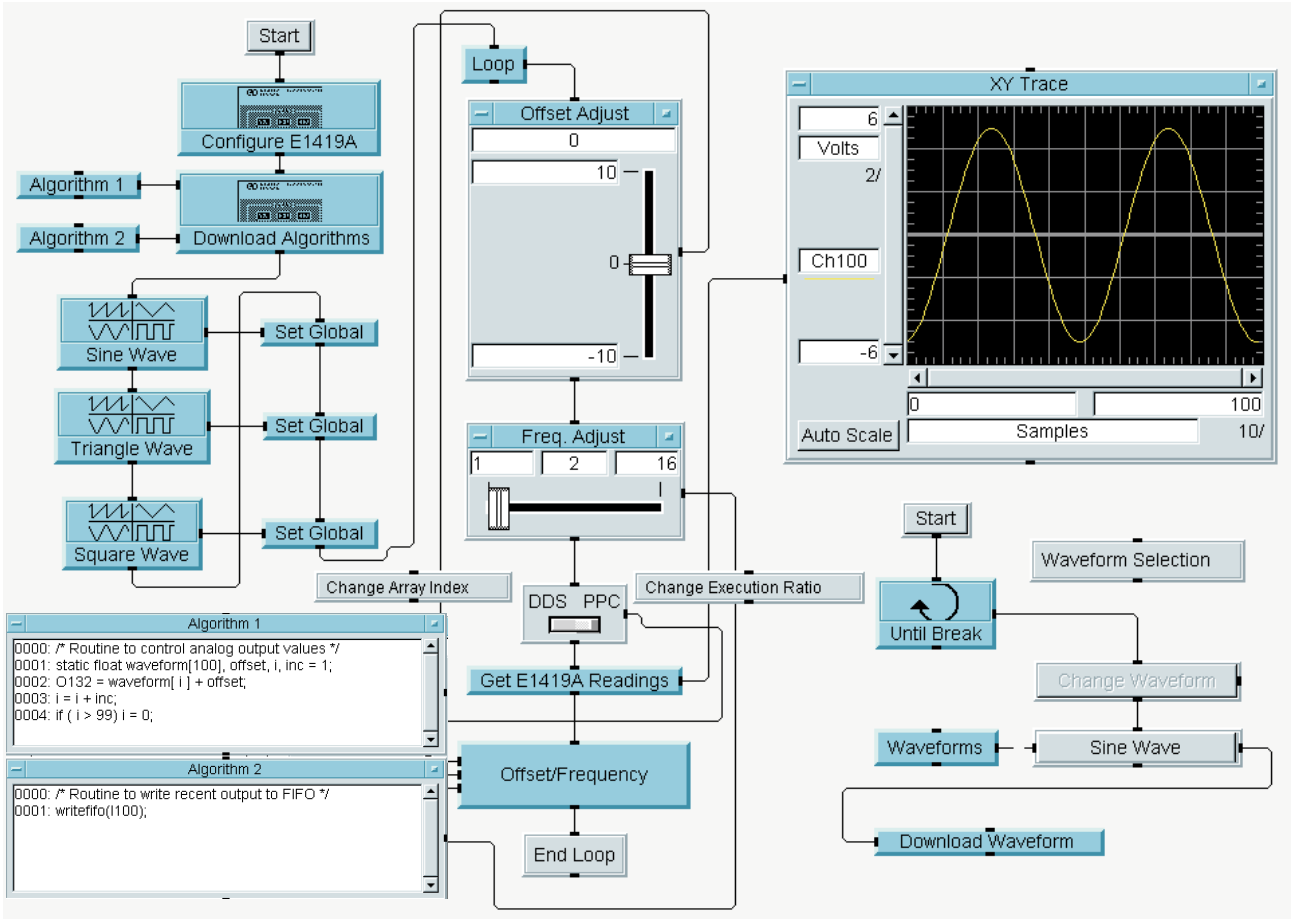


Figure 5-14: Example of Variable and Array Modification

Analog output channel 132 is assumed connected to analog input channel 100 for this example. Rather than use a custom function to generate the sine wave, Agilent VEE's function generator objects are used to generate a sine wave, triangle wave, and square wave. There are three 100-element arrays created that will be downloaded into the VT1419A's memory, dependent upon the waveform to be generated. Algorithm 1 is expanded in the picture above and shows how it sequences through the array "waveform" to send values to the analog output. With each trigger cycle, Algorithm 1 executes and picks a value from the array dependent upon a counter variable(i). The variable "inc" is used to increment the counter so elements in the array can be skipped to generate a higher frequency waveform. Also note in Algorithm 1 that the output value to O132 consists of both the "waveform" array plus the variable "offset."

The vertical slider controls the value of “offset” and the horizontal slider controls the variable “inc.” When the toggle switch is in the DDS (direct digital synthesis) mode, the horizontal slider modifies “inc” to generate lower resolution/higher frequency waveforms. When in the PPC (point per cycle) mode, the slider modifies the ALG:SCAN:RATIO command of Algorithm 1 to vary how many trigger cycles to wait before executing the algorithm and writing different data to the output channel. This has the effect of slowing down the waveform and lowering its frequency. Algorithm 2 simply copies each value of channel 132 to the FIFO every trigger cycle. With Algorithm 1 only executing at some multiple of the trigger rate, there will be repeated FIFO readings of the same value indicating a slower frequency.

The “Offset/Frequency” object has the SCPI commands used to control the scalar variable updates and the object “Download Waveform” controls writing to the array “waveform” in Algorithm 1.

Algorithm Modification

swap1419.vee: This program operates stand-alone. It shows how to modify algorithms while the VT1419A is running. It includes further examples on custom function generation.

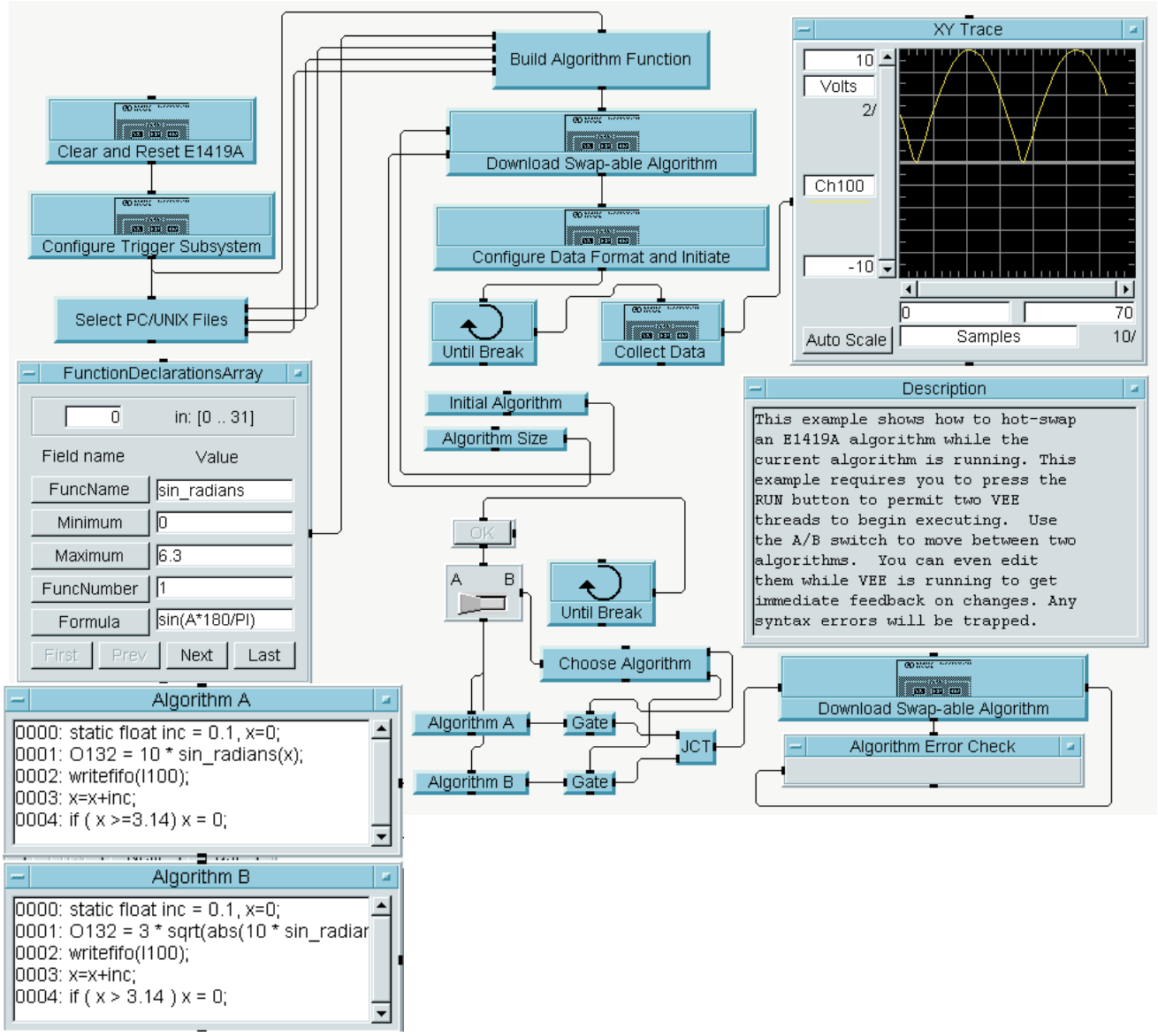


Figure 5-15: Example of On-the-Fly Algorithm Changes

Analog output channel 132 is assumed connected to analog input channel 100 for this example. Rather than use a custom function to generate the sine wave, Agilent VEE's function generator objects are used to generate a sine wave, triangle wave, and square wave. There are three, 100-element arrays created that will be downloaded into the VT1419A's memory, dependent upon the waveform to be generated. Algorithm 1 is expanded in the picture above and shows how it

sequences through the array “waveform” to send values to the analog output. With each trigger cycle, Algorithm 1 executes and picks a value from the array dependent upon a counter variable(i). The variable “inc” is used to increment the counter so elements in the array can be skipped to generate a higher frequency waveform. Also note in Algorithm 1 that the output value to O132 consists of both the “waveform” array plus the variable “offset.”

The vertical slider controls the value of “offset” and the horizontal slider controls the variable “inc.” When the toggle switch is in the DDS (direct digital synthesis) mode, the horizontal slider modifies “inc” to generate lower resolution/higher frequency waveforms. When in the PPC (point per cycle) mode, the slider modifies the ALG:SCAN:RATIO command of Algorithm 1 to vary how many trigger cycles to wait before executing the algorithm and writing different data to the output channel . This has the effect of slowing down the waveform and lowering its frequency. Algorithm 2 simply copies each value of channel 132 to the FIFO every trigger cycle. With Algorithm 1 only executing at some multiple of the trigger rate, there will be repeated FIFO readings of the same value indicating a slower frequency.

The “Offset/Frequency” object has the SCPI commands used to control the scalar variable updates and the object “Download Waveform” controls writing to the array “waveform” in Algorithm 1.

Driver Download

drvr1419.vee: This program allows the VT1419A driver and any other drivers that might be need to be downloaded into an Agilent/HP E1405/6 Command Module. Specify the directory where the driver files are found and the actual driver files (.DU) to be downloaded into the Agilent/HP E1405/06 Driver RAM. The program will first list the drivers found in the Agilent/HP E1405/6's memory and the CONTINUE button must be pressed to proceed with the download.

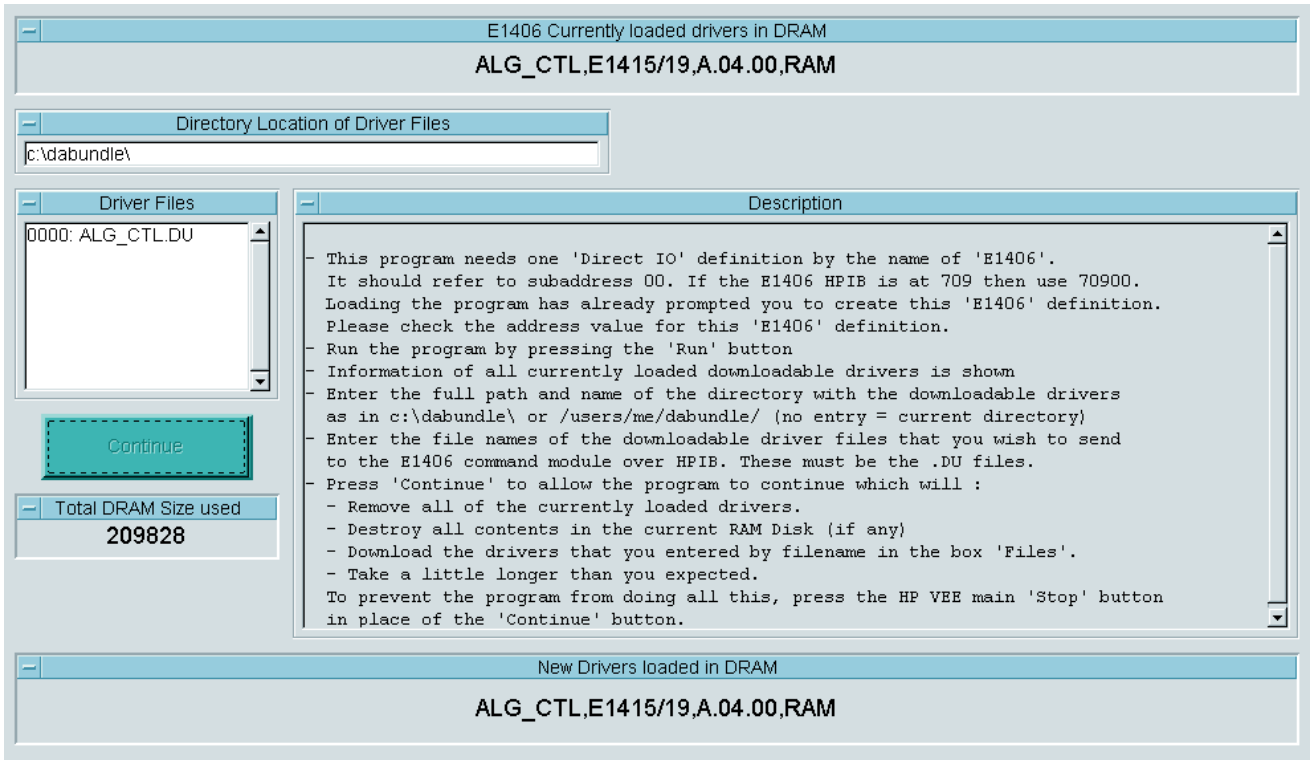

E1406 Currently loaded drivers in DRAM
ALG_CTL,E1415/19,A.04.00,RAM
Directory Location of Driver Files
c:\dabundle\
Driver Files
0000: ALG_CTL.DU
Description
- This program needs one 'Direct IO' definition by the name of 'E1406'.
It should refer to subaddress 00. If the E1406 HPIB is at 709 then use 70900.
Loading the program has already prompted you to create this 'E1406' definition.
Please check the address value for this 'E1406' definition.
- Run the program by pressing the 'Run' button
- Information of all currently loaded downloadable drivers is shown
- Enter the full path and name of the directory with the downloadable drivers
as in c:\dabundle\ or /users/me/dabundle/ (no entry = current directory)
- Enter the file names of the downloadable driver files that you wish to send
to the E1406 command module over HPIB. These must be the .DU files.
- Press 'Continue' to allow the program to continue which will :
- Remove all of the currently loaded drivers.
- Destroy all contents in the current RAM Disk (if any)
- Download the drivers that you entered by filename in the box 'Files'.
- Take a little longer than you expected.
To prevent the program from doing all this, press the HP VEE main 'Stop' button
in place of the 'Continue' button.
Continue
Total DRAM Size used
209828
New Drivers loaded in DRAM
ALG_CTL,E1415/19,A.04.00,RAM

Figure 5-16: Example of Command Module Driver Download

Firmware-Update Download

flsh1419.vee: This program allows the flash memory of the VT1419A to be saved and reprogrammed. Updating the flash memory for the VT1419A is usually a rare occurrence, but, should a new revision become available, the new firmware can be downloaded into the VT1419A's flash memory. To safe-guard against the remote chance that the new flash causes problems, the program also allows the old flash memory to be saved.

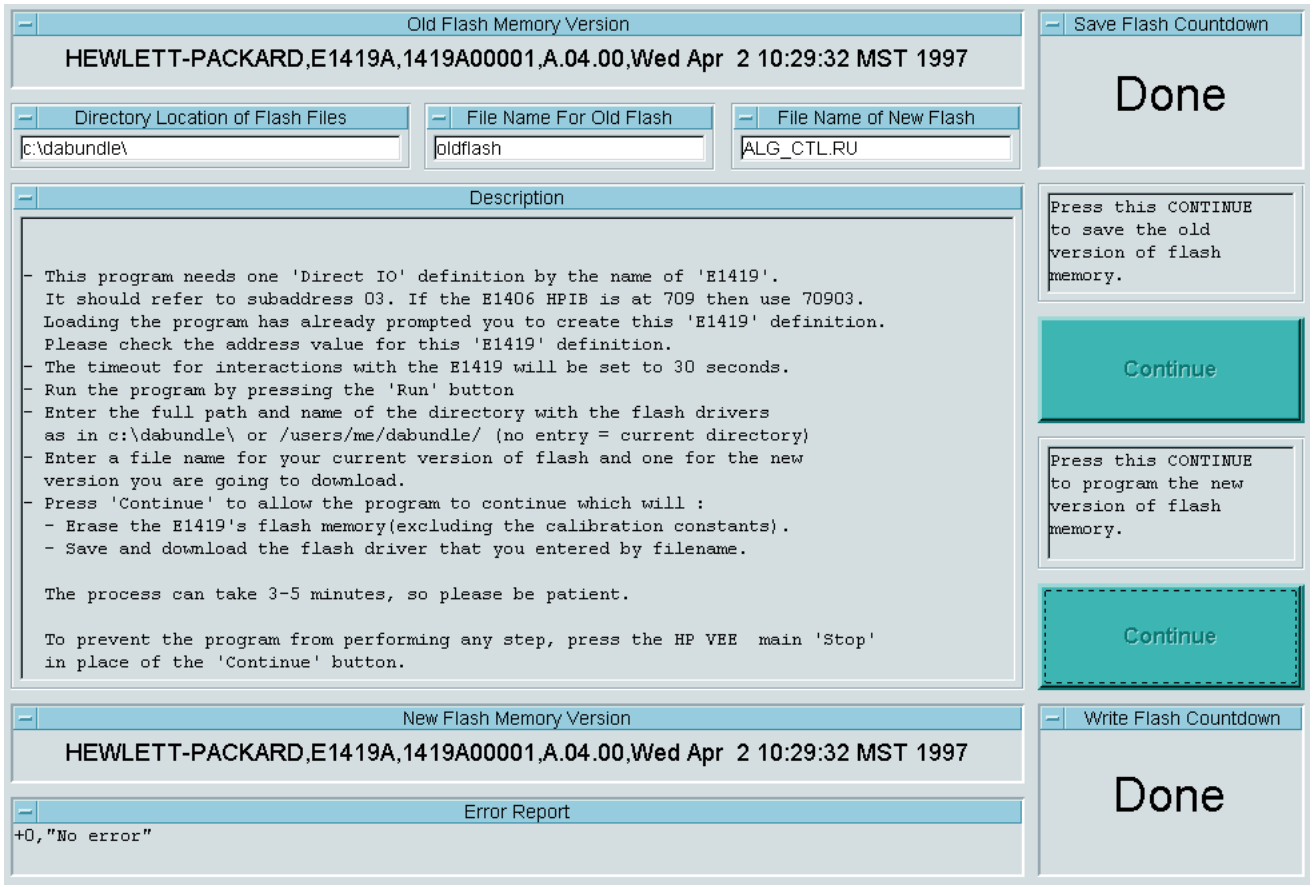

Old Flash Memory Version
HEWLETT-PACKARD,E1419A,1419A00001,A.04.00,Wed Apr 2 10:29:32 MST 1997
Save Flash Countdown
Done
Directory Location of Flash Files
c:\dabundle\
File Name For Old Flash
oldflash
File Name of New Flash
ALG_CTL.RU
Description
- This program needs one 'Direct IO' definition by the name of 'E1419'.
It should refer to subaddress 03. If the E1406 HPIB is at 709 then use 70903.
Loading the program has already prompted you to create this 'E1419' definition.
Please check the address value for this 'E1419' definition.
- The timeout for interactions with the E1419 will be set to 30 seconds.
- Run the program by pressing the 'Run' button
- Enter the full path and name of the directory with the flash drivers
as in c:\dabundle\ or /users/me/dabundle/ (no entry = current directory)
- Enter a file name for your current version of flash and one for the new
version you are going to download.
- Press 'Continue' to allow the program to continue which will :
- Erase the E1419's flash memory(excluding the calibration constants).
- Save and download the flash driver that you entered by filename.
The process can take 3-5 minutes, so please be patient.
To prevent the program from performing any step, press the HP VEE main 'Stop'
in place of the 'Continue' button.
Press this CONTINUE
to save the old
version of flash
memory.
Continue
Press this CONTINUE
to program the new
version of flash
memory.
Continue
New Flash Memory Version
HEWLETT-PACKARD,E1419A,1419A00001,A.04.00,Wed Apr 2 10:29:32 MST 1997
Write Flash Countdown
Done
Error Report
+0,"No error"

Figure 5-17: Example of Firmware (Flash) Download

Notes

Chapter 6
VT1419A Command Reference

Using This Chapter

This chapter describes the **Standard Commands for Programmable Instruments** (SCPI) command set and the **IEEE-488.2 Common Commands** for the VT1419A.

- Overall Command Index . . . . . page 173
- Command Fundamentals . . . . . page 178
- SCPI Command Reference . . . . . page 184
- Common Command Reference . . . . . page 311
- Command Quick Reference . . . . . page 321

Overall Command Index

SCPI Commands

ABORt . . . . . page 185

ALGorithm[:EXPLicit]:ARRay *<alg_name>,<array_name>,<block_data>* . . . . . page 187
ALGorithm[:EXPLicit]:ARRay? *<alg_name>,<array_name>* . . . . . page 188
ALGorithm[:EXPLicit]:DEFine *<alg_name>*,[*<swap_enable>,<size>*,]*<source_code>* . . . . . page 188
ALGorithm[:EXPLicit]:SCALar *<alg_name>,<var_name>,<value>* . . . . . page 192
ALGorithm[:EXPLicit]:SCALar? *<alg_name>,<var_name>* . . . . . page 193
ALGorithm[:EXPLicit]:SCAN:RATio *<alg_name>,<value>* . . . . . page 193
ALGorithm[:EXPLicit]:SCAN:RATio? *<alg_name>* . . . . . page 194
ALGorithm[:EXPLicit]:SIZe? *<alg_name>* . . . . . page 194
ALGorithm[:EXPLicit][:STATe] *<alg_name>*,1 | 0 | ON | OFF . . . . . page 195
ALGorithm[:EXPLicit][:STATe]? *<alg_name>* . . . . . page 196
ALGorithm[:EXPLicit]:TIME? *<alg_name>* . . . . . page 196
ALGorithm:FUNCtion:DEFine *<func_name>,<range>,<offset>,<func_data>* . . . . . page 197
ALGorithm:OUTPut:DELay *<delay>* | AUTO . . . . . page 198
ALGorithm:OUTPut:DELay? . . . . . page 199
ALGorithm:UPDate[:IMMediate] . . . . . page 199
ALGorithm:UPDate:CHANnel (@*<channel>*) . . . . . page 200
ALGorithm:UPDate:WINDow *<num_updates>* . . . . . page 202
ALGorithm:UPDate:WINDow? . . . . . page 203

ARM[:IMMediate] . . . . . page 205
ARM:SOURce BUS | EXT | HOLD | IMM | SCP | TTLTrg<n> . . . . . page 205
ARM:SOURce? . . . . . page 206

CALibration:CONFigure:RESistance . . . . . page 208
CALibration:CONFigure:VOLTage *<range>*
CALibration:SETup . . . . . page 210

CALibration:SETup? . . . page 210
CALibration:STORe ADC | TARE . . . page 211
CALibration:TARE (@<*ch_list*>) . . . page 212
CALibration:TARE:RESet . . . page 214
CALibration:TARE? . . . page 214
CALibration:VALue:RESistance <*ref_ohms*> . . . page 214
CALibration:VALue:VOLTage <*ref_volts*> . . . page 215
CALibration:ZERO? . . . page 216

DIAGnostic:CALibration:SETup[:MODE] 0 | 1 . . . page 219
DIAGnostic:CALibration:SETup[:MODE]? . . . page 219
DIAGnostic:CALibration:TARE[:OTDetect][:MODE] 0 | 1 . . . page 220
DIAGnostic:CALibration:TARE[:OTDetect][:MODE]? . . . page 220
DIAGnostic:CHECksum? . . . page 221
DIAGnostic:CUStom:LINear <*table_range*>,<*table_block*>,(@<*ch_list*>) . . . page 221
DIAGnostic:CUStom:PIECewise <*table_range*>,<*table_block*>,(@<*ch_list*>) . . . page 222
DIAGnostic:CUSTom:REFerence:TEMPerature . . . page 222
DIAGnostic:IEEE 0 | 1 . . . page 223
DIAGnostic:IEEE? . . . page 223
DIAGnostic:INTerrupt[:LINe] <*int_line*> . . . page 223
DIAGnostic:INTerrupt[:LINe]? . . . page 224
DIAGnostic:OTDetect[:STATe] 1 | 0 | ON | OFF,(@<*ch_list*>) . . . page 224
DIAGnostic:OTDetect[:STATe]? (@<*channel*>). . . . page 225
DIAGnostic:QUERy:SCPREAD? <*reg_addr*> . . . page 225
DIAGnostic:VERSion? . . . page 226

FETCh? . . . page 227

FORMat[:DATA] <*format*>[,<*size*>] . . . page 229
FORMat[:DATA]? . . . page 230

INITiate[:IMMediate] . . . page 232

INPut:DEBounce:TIME <*time*>,(@<*ch_list*>) . . . page 233
INPut:FILTer[:LPASs]:FREQuency <*cutoff_freq*>,(@<*ch_list*>) . . . page 234
INPut:FILTer[:LPASs]:FREQuency? (@<*channel*>) . . . page 235
INPut:FILTer[:LPASs][:STATe] 1 | 0 | ON | OFF,(@<*ch_list*>) . . . page 236
INPut:FILTer[:LPASs][:STATe]? (@<*channel*>) . . . page 236
INPut:GAIN <*chan_gain*>,(@<*ch_list*>) . . . page 237
INPut:GAIN? (@<*channel*>) . . . page 237
INPut:LOW <*wvolt_type*>,(@<*ch_list*>) . . . page 238
INPut:LOW? (@<*channel*>) . . . page 238
INPut:POLarity NORMal | INverted,(@<*ch_list*>) . . . page 239
INPut:POLarity? (@<*channel*>) . . . page 239
INPut:THReshold:LEVel? (@<*channel*>) . . . page 239

MEMory:VME:ADDRess <*A24_address*> . . . page 242
MEMory:VME:ADDRess? . . . page 242
MEMory:VME:SIZE <*mem_size*> . . . page 242
MEMory:VME:SIZE? . . . page 243
MEMory:VME:STATe 1 | 0 | ON | OFF . . . page 243

MEMory:VME:STATe? . . . . . page 244

OUTPut:CURRent:AMPLitude <*amplitude*>,(@<*ch_list*>) . . . . . page 245
OUTPut:CURRent:AMPLitude? (@<*channel*>) . . . . . page 246
OUTPut:CURRent[:STATe] 1 | 0 | ON | OFF,(@<*ch_list*>) . . . . . page 247
OUTPut:CURRent[:STATe]? (@<*channel*>) . . . . . page 247
OUTPut:POLarity NORMal | INVerted,(@<*ch_list*>) . . . . . page 248
OUTPut:POLarity? (@<*channel*>) . . . . . page 248
OUTPut:SHUNt 1 | 0,(@<*ch_list*>) . . . . . page 248
OUTPut:SHUNt? (@<*channel*>) . . . . . page 249
OUTPut:TTLTrg:SOURce ALGorithm | FTRigger | SCPlugon | TRIGger . . . . . page 249
OUTPut:TTLTrg:SOURce? . . . . . page 250
OUTPut:TTLTrg<n>[:STATe] 1 | 0 | ON | OFF . . . . . page 250
OUTPut:TTLTrg<n>[:STATe]? . . . . . page 251
OUTPut:TYPE PASSive | ACTive,(@<*ch_list*>) . . . . . page 251
OUTPut:TYPE? (@<*channel*>) . . . . . page 252
OUTPut:VOLTage:AMPLitude <*amplitude*>,(@<*ch_list*>) . . . . . page 252
OUTPut:VOLTage:AMPLitude? (@<*channel*>) . . . . . page 252

ROUTe:SEQuence:DEFine? AIN | AOUT | DIN | DOUT . . . . . page 254
ROUTe:SEQuence:POINts? AIN | AOUT | DIN | DOUT . . . . . page 255

SAMPle:TIMer <*interval*> . . . . . page 256
SAMPle:TIMer? . . . . . page 256

[SENSe:]CHANnel:SETTling <settle_time>,(@<*ch_list*>) . . . . . page 259
[SENSe:]CHANnel:SETTling? (@<*channel*>) . . . . . page 260
[SENSe:]DATA:CVTable? (@<*element_list*>) . . . . . page 260
[SENSe:]DATA:CVTable:RESet . . . . . page 261
[SENSe:]DATA:FIFO[:ALL]? . . . . . page 261
[SENSe:]DATA:FIFO:COUNT? . . . . . page 262
[SENSe:]DATA:FIFO:COUNT:HALF? . . . . . page 263
[SENSe:]DATA:FIFO:HALF? . . . . . page 263
[SENSe:]DATA:FIFO:MODE BLOCk | OVERwrite . . . . . page 264
[SENSe:]DATA:FIFO:MODE? . . . . . page 264
[SENSe:]DATA:FIFO:PART? <*n_readings*> . . . . . page 265
[SENSe:]DATA:FIFO:RESet . . . . . page 265
[SENSe:]FREQuency:APERture <*gate_time*>,(@<*ch_list*>) . . . . . page 266
[SENSe:]FREQuency:APERture? (@<*channel*>) . . . . . page 267
[SENSe:]FUNCtion:CONDition (@<*ch_list*>) . . . . . page 267
[SENSe:]FUNCtion:CUSTom [<*range*>,](@<*ch_list*>) . . . . . page 268
[SENSe:]FUNCtion:CUSTom:REFerence [<*range*>,](@<*ch_list*>) . . . . . page 269
[SENSe:]FUNCtion:CUSTom:TCouple <*type*>,[<*range*>,](@<*ch_list*>) . . . . . page 270
[SENSe:]FUNCtion:FREQuency (@<*ch_list*>) . . . . . page 271
[SENSe:]FUNCtion:RESistance <*excite_current*>,[<*range*>,] @<*ch_list*>) . . . . . page 271
[SENSe:]FUNCtion:STRain:FBENding [<*range*>,](@<*ch_list*>) . . . . . page 272
[SENSe:]FUNCtion:STRain:FBPoisson [<*range*>,](@<*ch_list*>) . . . . . page 272
[SENSe:]FUNCtion:STRain:FPOisson [<*range*>,](@<*ch_list*>) . . . . . page 272
[SENSe:]FUNCtion:STRain:HBENding [<*range*>,](@<*ch_list*>) . . . . . page 272
[SENSe:]FUNCtion:STRain:HPOisson [<*range*>,](@<*ch_list*>) . . . . . page 272

[SENSe:]FUNCtion:STRain[:QUARter] [<*range*>,](@<*ch_list*>) . . . page 272
[SENSe:]FUNCtion:TEMPerature <*sensor_type*>,<*sub_type*>,[<*range*>,] (@<*ch_list*>) . . . page 274
[SENSe:]FUNCtion:TOTalize (@<*ch_list*>) . . . page 275
[SENSe:]FUNCtion:VOLTage[:DC] [<*range*>,](@<*ch_list*>) . . . page 276
[SENSe:]REFerence <*sensor_type*>,[<*sub_type*>,][<range>,] (@<*ch_list*>) . . . page 277
[SENSe:]REFerence:CHANnels (@<*ref_channel*>),(@<*tc_channels*>) . . . page 278
[SENSe:]REFerence:TEMPerature <*degrees_c*> . . . page279
[SENSe:]STRain:EXCitation <*excite_v*>,(@<*ch_list*>) . . . page 279
[SENSe:]STRain:EXCitation? (@<*channel*>) . . . page 280
[SENSe:]STRain:GFACtor <*gage_factor*>,(@<*ch_list*>) . . . page 280
[SENSe:]STRain:GFACtor? (@<*channel*>) . . . page 280
[SENSe:]STRain:POISson <*poisson_ratio*>,(@<*ch_list*>) . . . page 281
[SENSe:]STRain:POISson? (@<*channel*>) . . . page 281
[SENSe:]STRain:UNSTrained <*unstrained_v*>,(@<*ch_list*>) . . . page 282
[SENSe:]STRain:UNSTrained? (@<*channel*>) . . . page 282
[SENSe:]TOTalize:RESet:MODE INIT | TRIGger,(@<*ch_list*>) . . . page 283
[SENSe:]TOTalize:RESet:MODE? (@<*channel*>) . . . page 284

SOURce:FM[:STATe] 1 | 0 | O | OFF,(@<*ch_list*>) . . . page 285
SOURce:FM[:STATe]? (@<*channel*>) . . . page 286
SOURce:FUNCtion:[SHAPe:]CONDition (@<*ch_list*>) . . . page 286
SOURce:FUNCtion:[SHAPe:]PULSe (@<*ch_list*>) . . . page 287
SOURce:FUNCtion:[SHAPe:]SQUare (@<*ch_list*>) . . . page 287
SOURce:PULM[:STATe] 1 | 0 | ON | OFF,(@<*ch_list*>) . . . page 287
SOURce:PULM[:STATe]? (@<*channel*>) . . . page 288
SOURce:PULSe:PERiod <*period*>,(@<*ch_list*>) . . . page 288
SOURce:PULSe:PERiod? (@<*channel*>) . . . page 289
SOURce:PULSe:WIDth <*width*>,(@<*ch_list*>) . . . page 289
SOURce:PULSe:WIDth? (@<*channel*>) . . . page 289

STATus:OPERation:CONDition? . . . page 293
STATus:OPERation:ENABle <*enable_mask*> . . . page 294
STATus:OPERation:ENABle? . . . page 294
STATus:OPERation[:EVENt]? . . . page 295
STATus:OPERation:NTRansition <*transition_mask*> . . . page 295
STATus:OPERation:NTRansition? . . . page 296
STATus:OPERation:PTRansition <*transition_mask*> . . . page 296
STATus:OPERation:PTRansition? . . . page 297
STATus:PRESet . . . page 297
STATus:QUEStionable:CONDition? . . . page 298
STATus:QUEStionable:ENABle <*enable_mask*> . . . page 299
STATus:QUEStionable:ENABle? . . . page 299
STATus:QUEStionable[:EVENt]? . . . page 299
STATus:QUEStionable:NTRansition <*transition_mask*> . . . page 300
STATus:QUEStionable:NTRansition? . . . page 301
STATus:QUEStionable:PTRansition <*transition_mask*> . . . page 301
STATus:QUEStionable:PTRansition? . . . page 302

SYSTem:CTYPe? (@<*channel*>) . . . page 303
SYSTem:ERRor? . . . page 304

SYSTem:VERSion? . . . . . page 304

TRIGger:COUNt <*trig_count*> . . . . . page 307
TRIGger:COUNt? . . . . . page 307
TRIGger[:IMMediate] . . . . . page 308
TRIGger:SOURce BUS | EXT | HOLD | IMM | SCP | TIMer | TTLTrg<n> . . . . . page 308
TRIGger:SOURce? . . . . . page 309
TRIGger:TIMer[:PERiod] <*trig_interval*> . . . . . page 309
TRIGger:TIMer[:PERiod]? . . . . . page 310

Common Commands

*CAL? . . . . . page 311
*CLS . . . . . page 312
*DMC <*name*>,<*cmd_data*> . . . . . page 312
*EMC <*enable*> . . . . . page 312
*EMC? . . . . . page 312
*ESE . . . . . page 312
*ESE? . . . . . page 313
*ESR? . . . . . page 313
*GMC? <*name*> . . . . . page 313
*IDN? . . . . . page 313
*LMC? . . . . . page 313
*OPC . . . . . page 314
*OPC? . . . . . page 314
*PMC . . . . . page 315
*RMC <*name*> . . . . . page 315
*RST . . . . . page 315
*SRE . . . . . page 316
*SRE? . . . . . page 316
*STB? . . . . . page 316
*TRG . . . . . page 316
*TST? . . . . . page 317
*WAI . . . . . page 320

Command Fundamentals

Commands are separated into two types: IEEE-488.2 Common Commands and SCPI Commands. The SCPI command set for the VT1419A is 1990 compatible

Common Command Format

The IEEE-488.2 standard defines the Common commands that perform functions like reset, self-test, status byte query, etc. Common commands are four or five characters in length, always begin with the asterisk character (*) and may include one or more parameters. The command keyword is separated from the first parameter by a space character. Some examples of Common commands are:

```
*RST
*ESR 32
*STB?
```

SCPI Command Format

The SCPI commands perform functions like configuring channels, setting up the trigger system and querying instrument states or retrieving data. A subsystem command structure is a hierarchical structure that usually consists of a top level (or root) command, one or more lower level commands and their parameters. The following example shows part of a typical subsystem:

```
MEMory
    :VME
        :ADDRess  <A24_address>
        :ADDRess?
        :SIZE  <mem_size>
        :SIZE?
```

MEMory is the root command, :VME is the second level command and :ADDRess and SIZE are third level commands.

Command Separator

A colon (**:**) always separates one command from the next lower level command as shown below:

```
ROUTE:SEQUENCE:DEFINE?
```

Colons separate the root command from the second level command (ROUTE:SEQUENCE) and the second level from the third level (SEQUENCE:DEFINE?). If parameters are present, the first is separated from the command by a space character. Additional parameters are separated from each other by a commas.

Abbreviated Commands

The command syntax shows most commands as a mixture of upper and lower case letters. The upper case letters indicate the abbreviated spelling for the command. For shorter program lines, send the abbreviated form. For better program readability, send the entire command. The instrument will accept either the abbreviated form or the entire command.

For example, if the command syntax shows **SEQuence**, then **SEQ** and **SEQUENCE** are both acceptable forms. Other forms of **SEQuence**, such as *SEQUEN* or *SEQU* will generate an error. Upper or lower case letters can be used. Therefore, **SEQUENCE**, **sequence,** and **SeQuEnCe** are all acceptable.

Implied Commands

Implied commands are those which appear in square brackets (**[ ]**) in the command syntax. (Note that the brackets are not part of the command and are not sent to the instrument.) Suppose a root command is sent but not the preceding second level implied command. In this case, the instrument assumes the implied command was intended to be used and it responds as if it was sent. Examine the INITiate subsystem shown below:

INITiate
    [:IMMediate]

The second level command :IMMediate is an implied command. To set the instrument's trigger system to INIT:IMM, send either of the following command statements:

INIT:IMM *or* INIT

Variable Command Syntax

Some commands will have what appears to be a variable syntax. As an example:

OUTPut:TTLTrg<n>:STATe ON

In these commands, the "<n>" is replaced by a number. No space is left between the command and the number because the number is not a parameter. The number is part of the command syntax. The purpose of this notation is to save a great deal of space in the Command Reference. In the case of …TTLTrg<n>…, n can be from 0 through 7. An example command statement:

OUTPUT:TTLTRG2:STATE ON

Parameters

Parameter Types. The following section contains explanations and examples of parameter types that will be seen later in this chapter.

Parameter Types	Explanations and Examples
Numeric	Accepts all commonly used decimal representations of numbers including optional signs, decimal points, and scientific notation: 123, 123E2, -123, -1.23E2, .123, 1.23E-2, 1.23000E-01. Special cases include MIN, MAX, and INFinity. A parameter that represents units may also include a units suffix. These are: Volts; V, mv=10^{-3}, uv=10^{-6} Ohms; ohm, kohm=10^{3}, mohm=10^{6} Seconds; s, msec=10^{-3}, usec=10^{-6} Hertz; hz, khz=10^{3}, mhz=10^{6}, ghz=10^{9}

The Comments section within the Command Reference will state whether a numeric parameter can also be specified in hex, octal, and/or binary.

#H7B, #Q173, #B1111011

Boolean Represents a single binary condition that is either true or false.

ON, OFF, 1, 0.

Discrete Selects from a finite number of values. These parameters use mnemonics to represent each valid setting.

An example is the TRIGger:SOURce <*source*> command where <*source*> can be BUS, EXT, HOLD, IMM, SCP, TIMer or TTLTrg<n>.

Channel List The general form of a single channel specification is:

ccnn

where cc represents the card number and nn represents the channel number.

Since the VT1419A has an on-board 64 channel multiplexer, the card number will be 1 and the channel number can range from 00 to 63. Some example channel specifications:

channel 0=100, channel 5=105, channel 54=154

The General form of a channel range specification is:

ccnn:ccnn (colon separator)

(the second channel must be greater than the first)

Example:

channels 0 through 15=100:115

By using commas to separate them, individual and range specifications can be combined into a single channel list:

0, 5, 6 through 32 and 45=(@100,105,106:132,145)

Note that a channel list is always contained within "(@" and ")". The Command Reference always shows the "(@" and ")" punctuation:

(@<*ch_list*>)

Arbitrary Block Program and Response Data This parameter or data type is used to transfer a block of data in the form of bytes. The block of data bytes is preceded by a preamble which indicates either 1) the number of data bytes which follow (definite length) or 2) that the following data block will be terminated upon receipt of a New Line message and for GPIB operation, with the EOI signal true (indefinite length). The syntax for this parameter is:

Definite Length #<non-zero digit><digit(s)><data byte(s)>

Where the value of <non-zero digit> is 1-9 and represents the number of <digit(s)>. The value of <digit(s)> taken as a decimal integer indicates the number of <data byte(s)> in the block.

Example of sending or receiving 1024 data bytes:
#41024<byte><byte1><byte2><byte3><byte4>…
…<byte1021><byte1022><byte1023><byte1024>

OR

Indefinite Length #0<data byte(s)><NL^END>

Examples of sending or receiving 4 data bytes:
#0<byte><byte><byte><byte><NL^END>

Optional Parameters. Parameters shown within square brackets (**[ ]**) are optional parameters. (Note that the brackets are not part of the command and should not be sent to the instrument.) If a value for an optional parameter is no specified, the instrument chooses a default value. For example, consider the FORMAT:DATA <*type*>[,<*length*>] command. If the command is sent without specifying <*length*>, a default value for <*length*> will be selected depending on the <*type*> of format specified. For example:

FORMAT:DATA ASC will set [,<*length*>] to the default for ASC of 7
FORMAT:DATA REAL will set [,<*length*>] to the default for REAL of 32
FORMAT:DATA REAL, 64 will set [,<*length*>] to 64

Be sure to place a space between the command and the first parameter.

Linking Commands

Linking commands is used to send more than one complete command in a single command statement.

Linking IEEE-488.2 Common Commands with SCPI Commands. Use a semicolon between the commands. For example:

```
*RST;OUTP:TTLT3 ON    or    TRIG:SOUR IMM;*TRG
```

Linking Multiple complete SCPI Commands. Use both a semicolon and a colon between the commands. For example:

```
OUTP:TTLT2 ON;:TRIG:SOUR EXT
```

The semicolon as well as separating commands tells the SCPI parser to expect the command keyword following the semicolon to be at the same hierarchical level (and part of the same command branch) as the keyword preceding the semicolon. The colon immediately following the semicolon tells the SCPI parser to reset the expected hierarchical level to Root.

Linking a complete SCPI Command with other keywords from the same branch and level. Separate the first complete SCPI command from next partial command with the semicolon only. For example, take the following portion of the [SENSE] subsystem command tree (the FUNCtion branch):

[SENSe:]
FUNCtion
:RESistance *<range>,(@<ch_list>)*
:TEMPerature *<sensor>[,<range>,](@<ch_list>)*
:VOLTage[:DC] *[<range>,](@<ch_list>)*

Rather than send a complete SCPI command to set each function, send:

FUNC:RES 10000,(@100:107);TEMP RTD, 92,(@108:115);VOLT (@116,123)

This sets the first eight channels to measure resistance, the next eight channels to measure temperature and the next eight channels to measure voltage.

NOTE The command keywords following the semicolon must be from the same command branch and level as the complete command preceding the semicolon or a -113,"Undefined header" error will be generated.

C-SCPI Data Types

The following table shows the allowable type and sizes of the C-SCPI parameter data sent to the module and query data returned by the module. The parameter and returned value type is necessary for programming and is documented in each command in this chapter.

Data Types	Description
int16	Signed 16-bit integer number.
int32	Signed 32-bit integer number.
uint16	Unsigned 16-bit integer number.
uint32	Unsigned 32-bit integer number.
float32	32-bit floating point number.
float64	64-bit floating point number.
string	String of characters (null terminated)

SCPI Command Reference

The following section describes the SCPI commands for the VT1419A. Commands are listed alphabetically by subsystem and also within each subsystem. A command guide is printed in the top margin of each page. The guide indicates the current subsystem on that page.

ABORt

The ABORt subsystem is a part of the VT1419A's trigger system. ABORt resets the trigger system from its Wait For Trigger state to its Trigger Idle state.

Subsystem Syntax

ABORt

CAUTION! ABORT stops execution of a running algorithm. The control output is left at the last value set by the algorithm. Depending on the process, this uncontrolled situation could be dangerous. Make certain that the process is in a safe state before halting the execution of a controlling algorithm.

Comments

- ABORt does not affect any other settings of the trigger system. When the INITiate command is sent, the trigger system will respond just as it did before the ABORt command was sent.
- **Related Commands:** INITiate[:IMMediate], TRIGger…
- ***RST Condition:** TRIG:SOUR HOLD

Usage

ABORT — *If INITed, goes to Trigger Idle state. If running algorithms, stops, and goes to Trigger Idle State.*

ALGorithm

The ALGorithm command subsystem provides:

- Definition of measurement and control algorithms
- Communication with algorithm array and scalar variables
- Controls to enable or disable individual algorithms
- Control of ratio of number of scan triggers per algorithm execution
- Control of algorithm execution speed
- Easy definition of algorithm data conversion functions

Subsystem Syntax

```
ALGorithm
    [:EXPLicit]
        :ARRay <alg_name>,<array_name>,<block_data>
        :ARRay? <alg_name>,<array_name>
        :DEFine <alg_name>[,<swap_size>],<program_block>
        :SCALar <alg_name>,<var_name>,<value>
        :SCALar? <alg_name>,<var_name>
        :SCAN:RATio <alg_name>,<value>
        :SCAN:RATio? <alg_name>
        :SIZe? <alg_name>
        [:STATe] <alg_name>,ON | OFF
        [:STATe]? <alg_name>
        :TIME? <alg_name>
    :FUNCtion:DEFine <func_name>,<range>,<offset>,<block_data>
    :OUTPut:DELay <usec> | AUTO
    :OUTPut:DELay?
    :UPDate
        [:IMMediate]
        :CHANnel <channel_item>
        :WINDow <num_updates>
        :WINDow?
```

ALGorithm[:EXPLicit]:ARRay

ALGorithm[:EXPLicit]:ARRay <*alg_name*>,<*array_name*>,<*array_block*> places values of <*array_name*> for algorithm <*alg_name*> into the Update Queue. This update is then pending until ALG:UPD is sent or an update event (as set by ALG:UPD:CHANNEL) occurs.

NOTE ALG:ARRAY places a variable update request in the Update Queue. Do not place more update requests in the Update Queue than are allowed by the current setting of ALG:UPD:WINDOW or a "Too many updates — send ALG:UPDATE command' error message will be generated.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
alg_name	string	ALG1 - ALG32 | GLOBALS	none
array_name	string	valid 'C' variable name	none
array_block	block data	block of IEEE-754 64-bit floating point numbers	none

Comments

- To send values to a Global array, set the <*alg_name*> parameter to "GLOBALS." To define a global array see the ALGorithm:DEFine command.
- An error is generated if <*alg_name*> or <*array_name*> is not defined.
- When an array is defined (in an algorithm or in 'GLOBALS'), the VT1419A allocates twice the memory required to store the array. When the ALG:ARRAY command is sent, the new values for the array are loaded into the second space for this array. When the ALG:UPDATE or ALG:UPDATE:CHANNEL commands are sent, the VT1419A switches a pointer to the space containing the new array values. This is how even large arrays can be "updated" as if they were a single update request. If the array is again updated, the new values are loaded into the original space and the pointer is again switched.
- <*progname*> is not case sensitive. However, <*array_name*> is case sensitive.
- **Related Commands:** ALG:DEFINE, ALG:ARRAY?
- ***RST Condition:** No algorithms or variables are defined.

Usage

send array values to my_array in ALG4

ALG:ARR 'ALG4','my_array',<*block_array_data*>

```
                    send array values to the global array glob_array
ALG:ARR 'GLOBALS','glob_array',<block_array_data>
ALG:UPD                                  force update of variables
```

ALGorithm[:EXPLicit]:ARRay?

ALGorithm[:EXPLicit]:ARRay? <*alg_name*>,<*array_name*> returns the contents of <*array_name*> from algorithm <*alg_name*>. ALG:ARR? can return contents of global arrays when <*alg_name*> specifies 'GLOBALS'.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
alg_name	string	ALG1 - ALG32 | GLOBALS	none
array_name	string	valid 'C' variable name	none

Comments

- An error is generated if <*alg_name*> or <*array_name*> is not defined.
- **Returned Value:** Definite length block data of IEEE-754 64-bit float

ALGorithm[:EXPLicit]:DEFine

ALGorithm[:EXPLicit]:DEFine '<*alg_name*>',[<*swap_size*>,] '<*source_code*>' is used to define control algorithms and global variables.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
alg_name	string	ALG1 - ALG32 | GLOBALS	none
swap_size	numeric (uint16)	0 - Max Available Algorithm Memory	words
source_code	string or block data see Comments	algorithm source	none

Comments

- The <*alg_name*> must be one of ALG1, ALG2, ALG3, etc. through ALG32 or GLOBALS. The parameter is not case sensitive. 'ALG1' and 'alg1' are equivalent as are 'GLOBALS' and 'globals.'
- The <*swap_size*> parameter is optional. Include this parameter with the first definition of <*alg_name*> if it will be changed later while it is running. The value can range up to about 23k words (ALG:DEF will then allocate 46k words as it creates two spaces for this algorithm).

– If included, <*swap_size*> specifies the number of words of memory to allocate for the algorithm specified by <*alg_name*>. The VT1419A will then allocate this much memory again, as an update buffer for this algorithm. Note that this doubles the amount of memory space requested. Think of this as "space1" and "space2" for algorithm <*alg_name*>. When a replacement algorithm is sent later (must be sent without the <*swap_size*> parameter), it will be placed in "space2." An ALG:UPDATE command must be sent for execution to switch from the original to the replacement algorithm. If the algorithm for <*alg_name*> is again changed, it will be executed from "space1" and so on. Note that <*swap_size*> must be large enough to contain the original executable code derived from <*source_code*> and any subsequent replacement for it or an error 3085 "Algorithm too big" will be generated.

– If <*swap_size*> is not included, the VT1419A will allocated just enough memory for algorithm <*alg_name*>. Since there is no swapping buffer allocated, this algorithm cannot be changed until a *RST command is sent to clear all algorithms. See "When Accepted and Usage."

- The <*source_code*> parameter contents can be:

  – When <*alg_name*> is 'ALG1' through 'ALG32', Algorithm Language source code representing a user's algorithm.

    ```
    ALG:DEF  'ALG5','if( First_loop ) O136=0; O136=O136+0.01;'
    ```

  – When <*alg_name*> is 'GLOBALS', Algorithm Language variable declarations. A variable name must not be the same as an already define user function.

    ```
    ALG:DEF  'GLOBALS','static float my_glob_scalar, my_glob_array[24];'
    ```

  The Algorithm Language source code is translated by the VT1419's driver into an executable form and sent to the module.

- The <*source_code*> parameter can be one of three different SCPI types:

  Quoted String For short segments (single lines) of code, enclose the code string within single (apostrophes) or double quotes. Because of string length limitations within SCPI and some programming platforms, it is recommended that the quoted string length not exceed a single program line. Example:

  ```
  ALG:DEF 'ALG1','static float outval = 0 ; O132 = outval; outval = outval + 1;'
  ```

  Definite Length Block Program Data For longer code segments (like complete custom algorithms) this parameter works well because it specifies the exact length of the data block that will be transferred. The syntax for this parameter type is: #<*non-zero digit*><*digit(s)*><*data byte(s)*>

  Where the value of <non-zero digit> is 1-9 and represents the number of <*digit(s)*>. The value of <*digit(s)*> taken as a decimal integer indicates the number of <*data byte(s)*> in the block. Example from "**Quoted String**":

```
ALG:DEF  'ALG1',#211O132=I100;Ø        (where "Ø" is a null byte, required for C-SCPI only)
```

NOTE for C-SCPI

For Block Program Data, the Algorithm Parser requires that the <*source_code*> data end with a null (Ø) byte. The null byte must be appended to the end of the block's <*data byte(s)*> and account for it in the byte count <*digit(s)*> from above. If the null byte is not included or <*digit(s)*> doesn't include it, the error "Algorithm Block must contain termination '\0'" will be generated.

Indefinite Length Block Program Data This form terminates the data transfer when it receives an End Identifier with the last data byte. Use this form only when it is certain that the controller platform will include the End Identifier. If it is not included, the ALG:DEF command will "swallow" whatever data follows the algorithm code. The syntax for this parameter type is:

#0<*data byte(s)*><*null byte with End Identifier*>

Example from "Quoted String" above:

```
ALG:DEF  'ALG1',#0O132=I100;Ø          (where "Ø" is a null byte, required for C-SCPI only)
```

NOTE for C-SCPI

For Block Program Data, the Algorithm Parser requires that the <*source_code*> data end with a null (Ø) byte. The null byte must be appended to the end of the block's <*data byte(s)*>. The null byte is sent with the End Identifier. If the null byte is not included, the error "Algorithm Block must contain termination '\0'" will be generated.

When accepted and Usage

1. If <*alg_name*> is not enabled to swap (not originally defined with the <*swap_size*> parameter included) then both of the following conditions must be true:

   a. Module is in Trigger Idle State (after *RST or ABORT and before INIT).

OK

```
*RST
ALG:DEF 'GLOBALS','static float My_global;'
ALG:DEF 'ALG3','My_global = My_global + 1;'
```

Error

```
INIT
ALG:DEF 'ALG5','static float a_out; O136=a_out;'
    "Can't define new algorithm while running"
```

b. The <*alg_name*> has not already been defined since a *RST command. Here
<*alg_name*> specifines either an algorithm name or ‘GLOBALS.’

OK

*RST
ALG:DEF ‘GLOBALS’,’static float My_global;’

Error

*RST
ALG:DEF ‘GLOBALS’,’static float My_global;’
“No error”
ALG:DEF ‘GLOBALS’,’static float A_different_global’
“Algorithm already defined” *Because ‘GLOBALS’ already defined*

Error

*RST
ALG:DEF ‘ALG3’,’static float z;if(First_loop) z = 0; z = z + 1;’
“No error”
ALG:DEF ‘ALG3’,’static float Cntr, Inc; O132 = Cntr; Cntr = Cntr + Inc;’
“Algorithm already defined” *Because ‘ALG3’ already defined*

2. If <*alg_name*> has been enabled to swap (originally defined with the <*swap_size*> parameter included) then the <*alg_name*> can be re-defined (do not include (*swap_size*> now) either while the module is in the Trigger Idle State or while in Waiting For Trigger State (INITed). Here <*alg_name*> is an algorithm name only, not ‘GLOBALS’.

OK

*RST
ALG:DEF ‘ALG3’,200,’if(O132<15.0) O132=O132 + 0.1; else O132 = -15.0;’
INIT *starts algorithm*
ALG:DEF ‘ALG3’,’if(O132<12.0) O132=O132 + 0.2; else O132 = -12.0;’
ALG:UPDATE *Required to cause new code to run*
“No error”

Error

*RST
ALG:DEF ‘ALG3’,200,’if(O132<15.0) O132=O132 + 0.1; else O132 = -15.0;’
INIT *starts algorithm*
ALG:DEF ‘ALG3’,200,’if(O132<12.0) O132=O132 + 0.2; else O132 = -12.0;’
“Algorithm swapping already enabled; Can’t change size”
Because <swap_size> included at re-definition

NOTES

1. Channels referenced by algorithms when they are defined are only placed in the channel list before INIT. The list cannot be changed after INIT. If an algorithm is redefined (by swapping) after INIT and it references channels not already in the channel list, it will not be able to access the newly referenced channels. No error message will be generated. To make sure all required channels are included in the channel list, define <*alg_name*> and re-define all algorithms that will replace <*alg_name*> by swapping them before sending INIT. This insures that all channels referenced in these algorithms will be available after INIT.
2. If an algorithm is redefined (by swapping) after INIT and it declares an existing variable, the declaration-initialization statement (e.g. `static float my_var = 3.5`) will not change the current value of that variable.
3. The driver only calculates overall execution time for algorithms defined before INIT. This calculation is used to set the default output delay (same as executing ALG:OUTP:DELAY AUTO). If an algorithm is swapped after INIT that take longer to execute than the original, the output delay will behave as if set by ALG:OUTP:DEL 0, rather than AUTO (see ALG:OUTP:DEL command). Use the same procedure from note 1 to make sure the longest algorithm execution time is used to set ALG:OUTP:DEL AUTO before INIT.

ALGorithm[:EXPLicit]:SCALar

ALGorithm[:EXPLicit]:SCALar <*alg_name*>,<*var_name*>,<*value*> sets the value of the scalar variable <*var_name*> for algorithm <*alg_name*> into the Update Queue. This update is then pending until ALG:UPD is sent or an update event (as set by ALG:UPD:CHANNEL) occurs.

NOTE ALG:SCALAR places a variable update request in the Update Queue. Do not place more update requests in the Update Queue than are allowed by the current setting of ALG:UPD:WINDOW or a “Too many updates — send ALG:UPDATE command” error message will be generated.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
alg_name	string	ALG1 - ALG32 or GLOBALS	none
var_name	string	valid ‘C’ variable name	none
value	numeric (float32)	IEEE-754 32-bit floating point number	none

Comments

- To send values to a global scalar variable, set the <*alg_name*> parameter to ‘GLOBALS’. To define a scalar global variable see the ALGorithm:DEFine command.

- An error is generated if <*alg_name*> or <*var_name*> is not defined.
- **Related Commands:** ALG:DEFINE, ALG:SCAL?
- ***RST Condition:** No algorithms or variables are defined.

Usage

```
ALG:SCAL  'ALG1','my_var',1.2345          1.2345 to variable my_var in ALG1
ALG:SCAL  'ALG1','another',5.4321         5.4321 to variable another also in ALG1
ALG:SCAL  'ALG3','my_global_var',1.001    1.001 to global variable
ALG:UPD                                   update variables from update queue
```

ALGorithm[:EXPLicit]:SCALar?

ALGorithm[:EXPLicit]:SCALar? <*alg_name*>,<*var_name*> returns the value of the scalar variable <*var_name*> in algorithm <*alg_name*>.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
alg_name	string	ALG1 - ALG32	none
var_name	string	valid 'C' variable name	none

Comments

- An error is generated if <*alg_name*> or <*var_name*> is not defined.
- **Returned Value:** numeric value. The type is **float32**.

ALGorithm[:EXPLicit]:SCAN:RATio

ALGorithm[:EXPLicit]:SCAN:RATio <*alg_name*>,<*num_trigs*> specifies the number of scan triggers that must occur for each execution of algorithm <*alg_name*>. This allows the specified algorithm to be executed less often than other algorithms. This can be useful for algorithm tuning.

NOTES

1. The command ALG:SCAN:RATio <*alg_name*>,<*num_trigs*> does not take effect until an ALG:UPDATE or ALG:UPD:CHAN command is received. This allows multiple ALG:SCAN:RATIO commands to be sent with a synchronized affect when the ALG:UPDATE command is used.
2. ALG:SCAN:RATio places a variable update request in the Update Queue. Do not place more update requests in the Update Queue than are allowed by the current setting of ALG:UPD:WINDOW or a "Too many updates — send ALG:UPDATE command" error message will be generated.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
alg_name	string	ALG1 - ALG32	none
num_trigs	numeric (int16)	1 to 32,767	none

Comments

Specifying a value of 1 (the default) causes the named algorithm to be executed each time a trigger is received. Specifying a value of n will cause the algorithm to be executed once every *n* triggers. All enabled algorithms execute on the first trigger after INIT.

- The algorithm specified by <*alg_name*> may or may not be currently defined. The specified setting will be used when the algorithm is defined.
- **Related Commands:** ALG:UPDATE, ALG:SCAN:RATIO?
- **When Accepted: Both before and after INIT**. Also accepted before and after the algorithm referenced is defined.
- ***RST Condition:** ALG:SCAN:RATIO = 1 for all algorithms

Usage

```
ALG:SCAN:RATIO 'ALG4',16        ALG4 executes once every 16 triggers.
```

ALGorithm[:EXPLicit]:SCAN:RATio?

ALGorithm[:EXPLicit]:SCAN:RATio? *<alg_name>* returns the number of triggers that must occur for each execution of <*alg_name*>.

Comments

- Since ALG:SCAN:RATIO is valid for an undefined algorithm, ALG:SCAN:RATIO? will return the current ratio setting for <*alg_name*> even if it is not currently defined.
- **Returned Value:** numeric, 1 to 32,768. The type is **int16**.

ALGorithm[:EXPLicit]:SIZe?

ALGorithm[:EXPLicit]:SIZe? *<alg_name>* returns the number of words of memory allocated for algorithm <*alg_name*>.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
alg_name	string	ALG1 - ALG32	none

Comments

- Since the returned value is the memory allocated to the algorithm, it will only equal the actual size of the algorithm if it was defined by ALG:DEF without its [<*swap_size*>] parameter. If enabled for swapping (if <*swap_size*> included at original definition), the returned value will be equal to (<*swap_size*>)*2.

NOTE If <*alg_name*> specifies an undefined algorithm, ALG:SIZ? returns 0. This can be used to determine whether algorithm <*alg_name*> is defined.

- **Returned Value:** numeric value up to the maximum available algorithm memory (this approximately 46k words). The type is **int32**.
- ***RST Condition:** returned value is 0.

ALGorithm[:EXPLicit][:STATe]

ALGorithm[:EXPLicit][:STATe] ***<alg_name>,<enable>*** specifies that algorithm <*alg_name*> , when defined, should be executed (ON) or not executed (OFF) during run-time.

NOTES

1. The command ALG:STATE <alg_name>, ON | OFF does not take effect until an ALG:UPDATE or ALG:UPD:CHAN command is received. This allows multiple ALG:STATE commands to be sent with a synchronized effect.
2. ALG:STATE places a variable update request in the Update Queue. Do not place more update requests in the Update Queue than are allowed by the current setting of ALG:UPD:WINDOW or a “Too many updates — send ALG:UPDATE command” error message will be generated.

CAUTION! When ALG:STATE OFF disables an algorithm, outputs are left at the last value set by the algorithm. Depending on the process, this uncontrolled situation could be dangerous. Make certain that the process is in a safe state before halting the execution of a controlling algorithm.

The Agilent/HP E1535 Watchdog Timer SCP was specifically developed to automatically signal that an algorithm has stopped controlling a process. Use of the Watchdog Timer is recommended for critical processes.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
alg_name	string	ALG1 - ALG32	none
enable	boolean (uint16)	0 | 1 | ON | OFF	none

Comments

- The algorithm specified by <*alg_name*> may or may not be currently defined. The setting specified will be used when the algorithm is defined.
- ***RST Condition:** ALG:STATE ON
- **When Accepted: Both before and after INIT**. Also accepted before and after the algorithm referenced is defined.
- **Related Commands:** ALG:UPDATE, ALG:STATE?, ALG:DEFINE

Usage

```
ALG:STATE 'ALG2',OFF          disable ALG2
```

ALGorithm[:EXPLicit][:STATe]?

ALGorithm[:EXPLicit][:STATe]? *<alg_name>* returns the state (enabled or disabled) of algorithm <*alg_name*>.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
alg_name	string	ALG1 - ALG32	none

Comments

- Since ALG:STATE is valid for an undefined algorithm, ALG:STATE? will return the current state for <*alg_name*> even if it is not currently defined.
- **Returned Value:** Numeric, 0 or 1. Type is **uint16**.
- ***RST Condition:** ALG:STATE 1

ALGorithm[:EXPLicit]:TIME?

ALGorithm[:EXPLicit]:TIME? *<alg_name>* computes and returns a worst-case execution time estimate in seconds.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
alg_name	string	ALG1 - ALG32 or MAIN	none

Comments

- When <*alg_name*> is ALG1 through ALG32, ALG:TIME? returns only the time required to execute the algorithm's code.

- When <*alg_name*> is 'MAIN', ALG:TIME? returns the worst-case execution time for an entire measurement & control cycle (sum of MAIN, all enabled algorithms, analog and digital inputs, and control outputs).
- If triggered more rapidly than the value returned by ALG:TIME? 'MAIN', the VT1419A will generate a "Trigger too fast" error.

NOTE If <*alg_name*> specifies an undefined algorithm, ALG:TIME? returns 0. This can be used to determine whether algorithm <*alg_name*> is defined.

- **When Accepted: Before INIT only**.
- **Returned Value:** numeric value. The type is **float32**

ALGorithm:FUNCtion:DEFine

ALGorithm:FUNCtion:DEFine *<function_name>,<range>,<offset>, <func_data>* defines a custom function that can be called from within a custom algorithm. See Appendix E "Generating User Defined Functions" for full information. Also see the Agilent VEE example program "*fn_1419.vee*" on page 156.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
function_name	string	valid 'C' identifier (if not already defined in 'GLOBALS')	none
range	numeric (float32)	see comments	none
offset	numeric (float32)	see comments	none
func_data	512 element array of uint16	see comments	none

Comments

- By providing this custom function capability, the VT1419A's algorithm language can be kept simple in terms of mathematical capability. This increases speed. Rather than having to calculate high-order polynomial approximations of non-linear functions, this custom function scheme loads a pre-computed look-up table of values into memory. This method allows computing virtually any transcendental or non-linear function in about 18 μs. Resolution is 16 bits.
- The <*function_name*> parameter is a global identifier and cannot be the same as a previously define global variable. A user function is globally available to all defined algorithms.

- Values are generated for <*range*>, <*offset*>, and <*func_data*> with the Agilent VEE program "*fn_1419.vee*" supplied with the VT1419A. See Appendix E "Generating User Defined Functions" for background information.
- The <*range*> and <*offset*> parameters define the allowable input values to the function (domain). If values input to the function are equal to or outside of (±<*range*>+<*offset*>), the function may return ±INF in IEEE-754 format. For example, <*range*> = 8 (-8 to 8), <*offset*> = 12. The allowable input values must be greater than 4 and less than 20.
- The <*func_data*> parameter is a 512 element array of type uint16.
- The algorithm syntax for calling is: <*function_name*> **(** <*expression*> **)** . for example:

  O136 = squareroot(2 * Input_val);

- Functions must be defined before defining algorithms that reference them.
- **When Accepted: Before INIT only**.

Usage

ALG:FUNC:DEF 'F1',8,12,<*block_data*> — *send range, offset, and table values for function F1*

ALGorithm:OUTPut:DELay

ALGorithm:OUTPut:DELay <*delay*> sets the delay from Scan Trigger to start of output phase.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
delay	numeric (float32)	0 - 0.081 | AUTO (2.5 μs resolution)	seconds

Comments

- The algorithm output statements (e.g. O136 = Out_val) DO NOT program outputs when they are executed. Instead, these statements write to an intermediate Output Channel Buffer which is read and used for output AFTER all algorithms have executed AND the algorithm output delay has expired (see Figure 6-1). Also note that not all outputs will occur at the same time but will take approximately 10 μs per channel to write.
- When <*delay*> is 0, the Output phase begins immediately after the Execute Algorithms phase. This provides the fastest possible execution speed while potentially introducing variations in the time between trigger and beginning of the Output phase. The variation can be caused by conditional execution constructs in algorithms or other execution time variations.

- If <*delay*> is set to less time than is required for the Input + Update + Execute Algorithms phases, ALG:OUTP:DELAY? will report the time set, but the effect will revert to the same that is set by ALG:OUTP:DELAY 0 (Output begins immediately after Execute phase).
- When <*delay*> is AUTO, the delay is set to the worst-case time required to execute phases 1 through 3. This provides the fastest execution speed while maintaining a fixed time between trigger and the OUTPUT phase.
- To set the time from trigger to the beginning of OUTPUT, use the following procedure. After defining all algorithms, execute:

ALG:OUTP:DEL AUTO	*sets minimum stable delay*
ALG:OUTP:DEL?	*returns this minimum delay*
ALG:OUTP:DEL <*minimum+additional*>	*additional = **desired** - minimum*

  Note that the delay value returned by ALG:OUTP:DEL? is valid only until another algorithm is loaded. After that, it is necessary to re-issue the ALG:OUTP:DEL AUTO and ALG:OUTP:DEL? commands to determine the new delay that includes the added algorithm.

- **When Accepted:** Before INIT only.
- ***RST Condition:** ALG:OUTP:DELAY AUTO

ALGorithm:OUTPut:DELay?

ALGorithm:OUTPut:DELay? returns the delay setting from ALG:OUTP:DEL.

Comments

- The value returned will be either the value set by ALG:OUTP:DEL <*delay*> or the value determined by ALG:OUTP:DEL AUTO.
- **When Accepted:** Before INIT only.
- ***RST Condition:** ALG:OUTP:DEL AUTO, returns delay setting determined by AUTO mode.
- **Returned Value:** number of seconds of delay. The type is **float32**.

ALGorithm:UPDate[:IMMediate]

ALGorithm:UPDate[:IMMediate] requests an immediate update of any scalar, array, algorithm code, ALG:STATE, or ALG:SCAN:RATIO changes that are pending.

Comments

- Variables and algorithms can be accepted during Phase 1-INPUT or Phase 2-UPDATE in Figure 6-1 when INIT is active. All writes to variables and algorithms occur to their buffered elements upon receipt. However, these changes do not take effect until the ALG:UPD:IMM command is processed at the beginning of the UPDATE phase. The update command can be received at any time prior to the UPDATE phase and will be the last command accepted. Note that the ALG:UPD:WINDow command specifies the maximum number of

updates to do. If no update command is pending when entering the UPDATE phase, then this time is dedicated to receiving more changes from the system.

- As soon as the ALG:UPD:IMM command is received, no further changes are accepted until all updates are complete. A query of an algorithm value following an UPDate command will not be executed until the UPDate completes; this may be a useful synchronizing method.

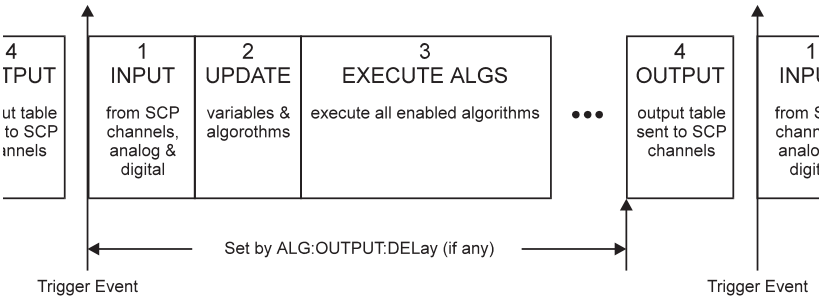


Figure 6-1: Updating Variables and Algorithms

- **When Accepted: Before or after INIT.**
- **Related Commands:** ALG:UPDATE:WINDOW, ALG:SCALAR, ALG:ARRAY, ALG:STATE and ALG:SCAN:RATIO, ALG:DEF (with swapping enabled)

Command Sequence

The following example shows three scalars being written with the associated update command following. See ALG:UPD:WINDOW.

```
ALG:SCAL ALG1’,’Setpoint’,25
ALG:SCAL ‘ALG1’,’P_factor’,1.3
ALG:SCAL ‘ALG2’,’P_factor’,1.7
ALG:UPD
ALG:SCAL? ‘ALG2’,’Setpoint’
```

ALGorithm:UPDate:CHANnel

ALGorithm:UPDate:CHANnel <*dig_chan*> This command is used to update variables, algorithms, ALG:SCAN:RATIO, and ALG:STATE changes when the specified digital input level changes state. When the ALG:UPD:CHAN command is executed, the current state of the digital input specified is saved. The update will be performed at the next update phase (UPDATE in Figure 6-1), following the channel’s change of digital state. This command is useful to synchronize multiple VT1419As when it is desirable for all variable updates to be processed at the same time.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
dig_chan	Algorithm Language channel specifier (string)	Input channel for VT1533A: Iccc.Bb for VT1534A: Iccc where ccc=normal channel number and b=bit number (include ".B")	none

Comments

- The duration of the level change to the designated bit or channel MUST be at least the length of time between scan triggers. Variable and algorithm changes can be accepted during the INPUT or UPDATE phases (Figure 6-1) when INIT is active. All writes to variables and algorithms occur to their buffered elements upon receipt. However, these changes do not take effect until the ALG:UPD:CHAN command is processed at the beginning of the UPDATE phase. Note that the ALG:UPD:WINDow command specifies the maximum number of updates to do. If no update command is pending when entering the UPDATE phase, then this time is dedicated to receiving more changes from the system.

NOTE As soon as the ALG:UPD:CHAN command is received, the VT1419A begins to closely monitor the state of the update channel and can not execute other commands until the update channel changes state to complete the update.

- Note that an update command issued after the start of the UPDATE phase will be buffered but not executed until the beginning of the next INPUT phase. At that time, the current stored state of the specified digital channel is saved and used as the basis for comparison for state change. If at the beginning of the scan trigger the digital input state had changed, then at the beginning of the UPDATE phase the update command would detect a change from the previous scan trigger and the update process would begin.
- **When Accepted:** Before and After INIT.

Command Sequence

The following example shows three scalars being written with the associated update command following. When the ALG:UPD:CHAN command is received, it will read the current state of channel 136, bit 0. At the beginning of the UPDATE phase, a check will be made to determine if the stored state of channel 136 bit 0, is different from the current state. If so, the update of all three scalars take effect next Phase 2.

```
INIT
ALG:SCAL 'ALG1','Outplimit',25
ALG:SCAL 'ALG1','Alarmtrip',1.3
ALG:SCAL 'ALG2','Alarmtrip',1.7
ALG:UPD:CHAN 'I136.B0'          update on state change at bit zero of 8-bit channel 36
```

ALGorithm:UPDate:WINDow

ALGorithm:UPDate:WINDow <*num_updates*> specifies the number of updates that will be performed during phase 2 (UPDATE). The DSP will process this command and assign a constant window of time for UPDATE.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
num_updates	numeric (int16)	1 - 512	none

Comments

- The default value for <*num_updates*> is 20. If it is known that fewer updates will be needed, specifying a smaller number will result in slightly faster loop execution speeds.
- This command creates a time interval in which to perform all pending algorithm and variable updates. To keep the loop times predictable and stable, the time interval for UPDATE is constant. That is, it exists for all active algorithms, each time they are executed whether or not an update is pending.
- ***RST Condition:** ALG:UPD:WIND 20
- **When Accepted:** Before INIT only.

Usage

It is decided that a maximum of eight variables per execution of ALG:UPDATE will need to be updated.

```
ALG:UPD:WIND 8
```

NOTES

1. When the number of update requests exceeds the Update Queue size set with ALG:UPD:WINDOW by one, the module will refuse the request and will issue the error message “Too many updates in queue. Must send UPDATE command”. Send ALG:UPDATE, then re-send the update request that caused the error.
2. The “Too many updates in queue…” error can occur before the module is INITialized. It’s not uncommon with several algorithms defined, to have more variables that need to be pre-set before INIT than will be changed in one update after the algorithms are running. INIT may need to be sent with updates pending. The INIT command automatically performs the updates before starting the algorithms.

ALGOrithm:UPDate:WINDow?

ALGOrithm:UPDate:WINDow? returns the number of variable and algorithm updates allowed within the UPDATE window.

- **Returned Value:** number of updates in the UPDATEwindow. The type is **int16**

With the VT1419A, when the TRIG:SOURCE is set to TIMer, an ARM event must occur to start the timer. This can be something as simple as executing the ARM[:IMMediate] command or it could be another event selected by ARM:SOURCE.

NOTE The ARM subsystem may only be used then the TRIGger:SOURce is TIMer. If the TRIGger:SOURce is not TIMer and ARM:SOURce is set to anything other than IMMediate, an Error -221,"Settings conflict" will be generated.

The ARM command subsystem provides:

- An immediate software ARM (ARM:IMM).
- Selection of the ARM source (ARM:SOUR BUS | EXT | HOLD | IMM | SCP | TTLTRG<n>) when TRIG:SOUR is TIMer.

Figure 6-7 shows the overall logical model of the Trigger System.

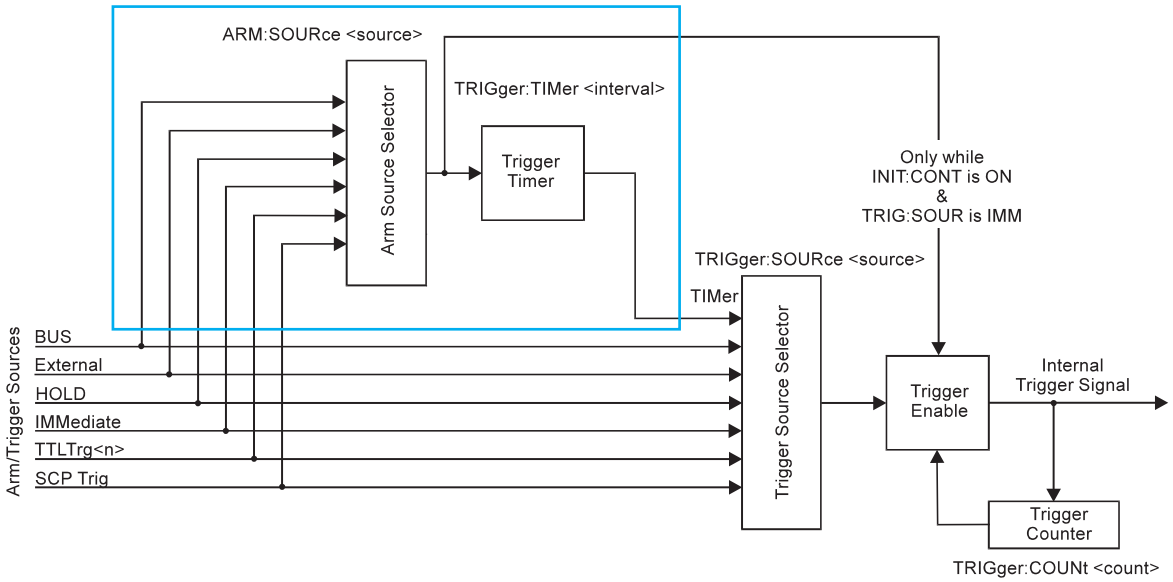


Figure 6-2: Logical Trigger Model

Subsystem Syntax

```
ARM
    [:IMMediate]
    :SOURce BUS | EXTernal | HOLD | IMMediate | SCP | TTLTrg<n>
    :SOURce?
```

ARM[:IMMediate]

ARM[:IMMediate] arms the trigger system when the module is set to the ARM:SOUR BUS or ARM:SOUR HOLD mode.

Comments

- **Related Commands:** ARM:SOURCE, TRIG:SOUR
- ***RST Condition:** ARM:SOUR IMM

Usage

ARM:IMM	*After INIT, system is ready for trigger event*
ARM	*Same as above (:IMM is optional)*

ARM:SOURce

ARM:SOURce ***<arm_source>*** configures the ARM system to respond to the specified source.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
arm_source	discrete (string)	BUS | EXT | HOLD | IMM | SCP | TTLTrg<n>	none

Comments

- The following table explains the possible choices.

Parameter Value	Source of Arm
BUS	ARM[:IMMediate]
EXTernal	“TRG” signal on terminal module
HOLD	ARM[:IMMediate]
IMMediate	The arm signal is always true (continuous arming).
SCP	SCP Trigger Bus (future SCP Breadboard)
TTLTrg<n>	The VXIbus TTLTRG lines (n=0 through 7)

- See note about ARM subsystem on page 204.
- When TRIG:SOURCE is TIMER, an ARM event is required only to trigger the first scan. After that the timer continues to run and the module goes to the Waiting For Trigger State ready for the next Timer trigger. An ABORT command will return the module to the Trigger Idle State after the current scan is completed. See TRIG:SOURce for more detail.

While ARM:SOUR is IMM, simply INITiate the trigger system to start a measurement scan.

- **When Accepted: Before INIT only.**
- **Related Commands:** ARM:IMM, ARM:SOURCE?, INIT[:IMM], TRIG:SOUR
- ***RST Condition:** ARM:SOUR IMM

Usage

```
ARM:SOUR   BUS          Arm with ARM command
ARM:SOUR TTLTRG3        Arm with VXIbus TTLTRG3 line
```

ARM:SOURce?

ARM:SOURce? returns the current arm source configuration. See the ARM:SOUR command for more response data information.

- **Returned Value:** Discrete, one of BUS, HOLD, IMM, SCP, or TTLT0 through TTLT7. The C-SCPI type is **string**.

Usage

```
ARM:SOUR?               An enter statement return arm source configuration
```

The Calibration subsystem provides for two major categories of calibration.

1. "A/D Calibration": In these procedures, an external multimeter is used to calibrate the A/D gain on all five of its ranges. The multimeter also determines the value of the VT1419A's internal calibration resistor. The values generated from this calibration are then stored in nonvolatile memory and become the basis for "Working Calibrations. These procedures each require a sequence of several commands from the CALibration subsystem (**CAL:CONFIG…, CAL:VALUE…,** and **CAL:STORE ADC)**. Always execute *CAL? or a CAL:TARE operation after A/D Calibration.
2. "Working Calibration": The three levels are described below (see Figure 6-3):

   – "A/D Zero": This function quickly compensates for any short term A/D converter offset drift. This would be called the auto-zero function in a conventional voltmeter. In the VT1419A, where channel scanning speed is of primary importance, this function is performed only when the **CAL:ZERO?** command is executed. Execute CAL:ZERO? as often as the control setup will allow.

   – "Channel Calibration": This function corrects for offset and gain errors for each module channel. The internal current sources are also calibrated. This calibration function corrects for thermal offsets and component drift for each channel out to the input side of the Signal Conditioning Plug-On (SCP). All calibration sources are on-board and this function is invoked using either the ***CAL?** or **CAL:SETup** command.

   – "Channel Tare": This function (**CAL:TARE**) corrects for voltage offsets in external system wiring. Here, the user places a short across transducer wiring and the voltage that the module measures is now considered the new "zero" value for that channel. The new offset value can be stored in non-volatile calibration memory (**CAL:STORE TARE**) but is in effect whether stored or not. System offset constants which are considered long-term should be stored. Offset constants which are measured relatively often would not require non-volatile storage. CAL:TARE automatically executes a *CAL? command.

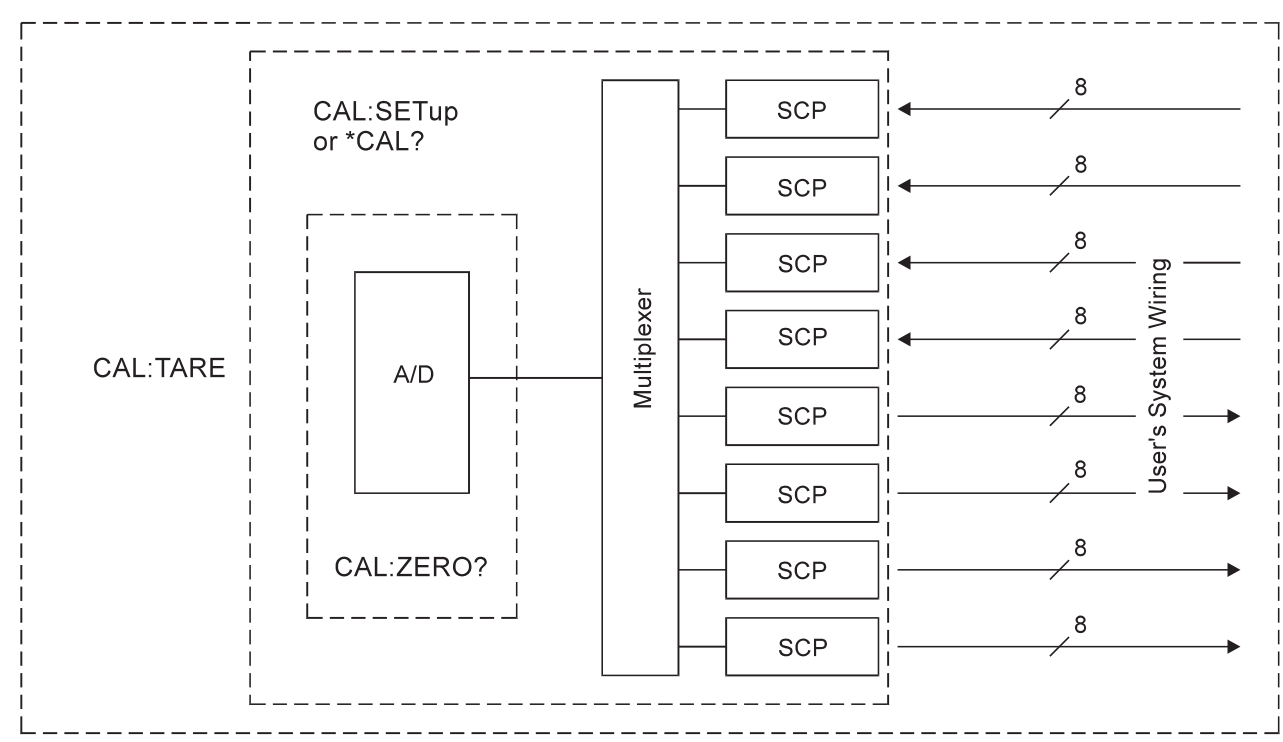


Figure 6-3: Levels of Working Calibration

Subsystem Syntax

```
CALibration
    :CONFigure
        :RESistance
        :VOLTage  <range>, ZERO | FS
    :SETup
    :SETup?
    :STORe ADC | TARE
    :TARE (@<ch_list>)
        :RESet
    :TARE?
    :VALue
        :RESistance  <ref_ohms>
        :VOLTage  <ref_volts>
    :ZERO?
```

CALibration:CONFigure:RESistance

CALibration:CONFigure:RESistance connects the on-board calibration reference resistor to the Calibration Bus. A four-wire measurement of the resistor can be made with an external "calibration DVM" connected to the **H Cal**, **L Cal**, **H ohm, and L ohm** terminals on the Terminal Module or the **V H**, **V L**, **Ω H**, and **Ω L** terminals on the Cal Bus connector.

Comments

- **Related Commands:** CAL:VAL:RES, CAL:STOR ADC
- **When Accepted:** Not while INITiated

Command Sequence

CAL:CONF:RES	*connect reference resistor to Calibration Bus*
*OPC? or SYST:ERR?	*must wait for CAL:CONF:RES to complete*
(*now measure ref resistor with external DMM*)	
CAL:VAL:RES <measured value>	*Send measured value to module*
CAL:STORE ADC	*Store cal constants in non-volatile memory (used only at end of complete cal sequence)*

CALibration:CONFigure:VOLTage

CALibration:CONFigure:VOLTage *<range>,<zero_fs>* connects the on-board calibration source to the Calibration Bus. A measurement of the calibration source voltage can be made with an external "calibration DVM" connected to the **H Cal** and **L Cal** terminals on the Terminal Module or the **V H** and **V L** terminals on the Cal Bus connector. The <*range*> parameter controls the source voltage level available when the <*zero_fs*> parameter is set to FSCale (full scale).

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
range	numeric (float32)	see comments	volts
zero_fs	discrete (string)	ZERO | FSCale	none

Comments

- The <*range*> parameter must be within ±5% of one of the five following values: 0.0625 V dc, 0.25 V dc, 1 V dc, 4 V dc, 16 V dc. <*range*> may be specified in millivolts (mv).
- The FSCALE output voltage of the calibration source will be approximately 90% of the nominal value for each range, except the 16 V range where the output is approximately 10 V.
- **When Accepted:** Not while INITiated
- **Related Commands:** CAL:VAL:VOLT, STOR ADC

Command Sequence

CAL:CONF:VOLTAGE .0625, ZERO	*connect voltage reference to Calibration Bus*
*OPC? or SYST:ERR?	*must wait for CAL:CONF:VOLT to complete*
(*now measure voltage with external DMM*)	
CAL:VAL:VOLT <measured value>	*Send measured value to module*
repeat above sequence for full-scale	
repeat zero and full-scale for remaining ranges (0.25, 1, 4, 16)	
CAL:STORE ADC	*Store cal constants in non-volatile memory (used only at end of complete cal sequence)*

CALibration:SETup

CALibration:SETup causes the Channel Calibration function to be performed for every module channel with an analog SCP installed (input or output). The Channel Calibration function calibrates the A/D Offset and the Gain/Offset for these analog channels. This calibration is accomplished using internal calibration references. For more information, see *CAL? on page 311.

Comments

- CAL:SET performs the same operation as the *CAL? command except that, since it is not a query command, it doesn't tie-up the C-SCPI driver waiting for response data from the instrument. If there are multiple VT1419As in a system, start a CAL:SET operation on each and then execute a CAL:SET? command to complete the operation on each instrument.
- **Related Commands:** CAL:SETup?, *CAL?
- **When Accepted:** Not while INITiated

Usage

```
CAL:SET          start SCP Calibration on 1st VT1419A
:                start SCP Calibration on more VT1419As
CAL:SET          start SCP Calibration on last VT1419A
CAL:SET?         query for results from 1st VT1419A
:                query for results from more VT1419As
CAL:SET?         query for results from last VT1419A
```

CALibration:SETup?

CALibration:SETup? Returns a value to indicate the success of the last CAL:SETup or *CAL? operation. CAL:SETup? returns the value only after the CAL:SETup operation is complete.

Comments

- **Returned Value:**

Value	Meaning	Further Action
0	Cal OK	None
-1	Cal Error	Query the Error Queue (SYST:ERR?) See Error Messages in Appendix B.
-2	No results available	No *CAL? or CAL:SETUP done

The C-SCPI type for this returned value is **int16**.

- **Related Commands:** CAL:SETup, *CAL?

Usage

see CAL:SETup

CALibration:STORe

CALibration:STORe ***<type>*** stores the most recently measured calibration constants into flash memory (Electrically Erasable Programmable Read Only Memory). When <*type*> = ADC, the module stores its A/D calibration constants as well as constants generated from *CAL?/CAL:SETup into flash memory. When <*type*> = TARE, the module stores the most recently measured CAL:TARE channel offsets into flash memory.

NOTE The VT1419's flash memory has a finite lifetime of approximately ten thousand write cycles (unlimited read cycles). While executing CAL:STOR once every day would not exceed the lifetime of the flash memory for approximately 27 years, an application that stored constants many times each day would unnecessarily shorten the flash memory's lifetime. See Comments below.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
type	discrete (string)	ADC | TARE	none

Comments

- The flash memory Protect jumper (JM2201) must be set to the enable position before executing this command (see Chapter 1).
- Channel offsets are compensated by the CAL:TARE command even when not stored in the flash memory. There is no need to use the CAL:STORE TARE command for channels which are re-calibrated frequently.
- **When Accepted:** Not while INITiated
- **Related Commands:** CAL:VAL:RES, CAL:VAL:VOLT
- ***RST Condition:** Stored calibration constants are unchanged

Usage

```
CAL:STORE ADC          Store cal constants in non-volatile memory after A/D calibration
CAL:STORE TARE         Store channel offsets in non-volatile memory after channel tare
```

Command Sequence

Storing A/D cal constants

```
perform complete A/D calibration, then...
CAL:STORE ADC
```

Storing channel tare (offset) values

```
CAL:TARE <ch_list>     to correct channel offsets
CAL:STORE TARE         Optional depending on necessity of long term storage
```

CALibration:TARE

CALibration:TARE (@<*ch_list*>) measures offset (or tare) voltage present on the channels specified and stores the value in on-board RAM as a calibration constant for those channels. Future measurements made with these channels will be compensated by the amount of the tare value. Use CAL:TARE to compensate for voltage offsets in system wiring and residual sensor offsets. Where tare values need to be retained for long periods, they can be stored in the module's flash memory (Electrically Erasable Programmable Read Only Memory) by executing the CAL:STORe TARE command.
For more information see Compensating for System Offsets on page 97.

Note for Thermocouples

- Do not use CAL:TARE on field wiring that is made up of thermocouple wire. The voltage a thermocouple wire pair generates can not be removed by introducing a short anywhere between its junction and its connection to an isothermal panel (either the VT1419A's Terminal Module or a remote isothermal reference block). Thermal voltage is generated along the entire length of a thermocouple pair where there is any temperature gradient along that length. To CAL:TARE thermocouple wire this way would introduce an unwanted offset in the voltage/temperature relationship for that channel. If a thermocouple wire pair is inadvertently "CAL:TARE'd," use CAL:TARE:RESET to reset all tare constants to zero.
- Do use CAL:TARE to compensate wiring offsets (copper wire, not thermocouple wire) between the VT1419A and a remote thermocouple reference block. Disconnect the thermocouples and introduce copper shorting wires between each channel's HI and LO, then execute CAL:TARE for these channels.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
ch_list	channel list (string)	100 - 163	none

Comments

- CAL:TARE also performs the equivalent of a *CAL? operation. This operation uses the Tare constants to set a DAC which will remove each channel offset as "seen" by the module's A/D converter. As an example assume that the system wiring to channel 0 generates a +0.1 volt offset with 0 volts (a short) applied at the Unit Under Test (UUT). Before CAL:TARE the module would return a reading of 0.1 volts for channel 0. After CAL:TARE (@100), the module will return a reading of 0 volts with a short applied at the UUT and the system wiring offset will be removed from all measurements of the signal to channel 0.
- Set Amplifier/Filter SCP gain before CAL:TARE. For best accuracy, choose the gain that will be used during measurements. If the range or gain setup is changed later, be sure to perform another *CAL? operation.
- Output SCP channels referenced in <*ch_list*> will not be affected by CAL:TARE. Some output have input channels associated with them in order to approximately

verify their output values. These input channels will be not be affected by CAL:TARE even if they are referenced in <*ch_list*>.

- If Open TransducerDetect (OTD) is enabled when CAL:TARE is executed, the module will disable OTD, wait 1 minute to allow channels to settle, perform the calibration, and then re-enable OTD. To keep the OTD current on while CAL:TARE executes, the DIAG:CAL:TARE:OTD:MODE:STATE command must be used to set this configuration.
- The maximum voltage that CAL:TARE can compensate for is dependent on the range chosen and SCP gain setting. The following table lists these values.

Maximum CAL:TARE Offsets

A/D range ± V F.Scale	Offset V Gain x1	Offset V Gain x8	Offset V Gain x16	Offset V Gain x64
16	3.2213	0.40104	0.20009	0.04970
4	0.82101	0.10101	0.05007	0.01220
1	0.23061	0.02721	0.01317	0.00297
0.25	0.07581	0.00786	0.00349	0.00055
0.0625	0.03792	0.00312	0.00112	n/a

- Channel offsets are compensated by the CAL:TARE command even when not stored in the flash memory. There is no need to use the CAL:STORE TARE command for channels which are re-calibrated frequently.
- The VT1419's flash memory has a finite lifetime of approximately ten thousand write cycles (unlimited read cycles). While executing CAL:STOR once every day would not exceed the lifetime of the flash memory for approximately 27 years, an application that stored constants many times each day would unnecessarily shorten the flash memory's lifetime. See Comments below.
- Executing CAL:TARE sets the Calibrating bit (bit 0) in Operation Status Group. Executing CAL:TARE? resets the bit.
- **When Accepted:** Not while INITiated
- **Related Commands:** CAL:TARE?, CAL:STOR TARE
- ***RST Condition:** Channel offsets are not affected by *RST.

Command Sequence

CAL:TARE <*ch_list*>	*to correct channel offsets*
CAL:TARE?	*to return the success flag from the CAL:TARE operation*
CAL:STORE TARE	*Optional depending on necessity of long term storage*

CALibration:TARE:RESet

CALibration:TARE:RESet resets the tare calibration constants to zero for all 64 channels. Executing CAL:TARE:RES affects the tare cal constants in RAM only. To reset the tare cal constants in flash memory,execute CAL:TARE:RES and then execute CAL:STORE TARE.

Command Sequence

CAL:TARE:RESET	*to reset channel offsets*
CAL:STORE TARE	*Optional if necessary to reset tare cal constants in flash memory.*

CALibration:TARE?

CALibration:TARE? Returns a value to indicate the success of the last CAL:TARE operation. CAL:TARE? returns the value only after the CAL:TARE operation is complete.

- **Returned Value:**

Value	Meaning	Further Action
0	Cal OK	None
-1	Cal Error	Query the Error Queue (SYST:ERR?) See Error Messages in Appendix B. Also run *TST?
-2	No results available	Perform CAL:TARE before CAL:TARE?

The C-SCPI type for this returned value is **int16**.

- Executing CAL:TARE sets the Calibrating bit (bit 0) in Operation Status Group. Executing CAL:TARE? resets the bit.
- **Related Commands:** CAL:STOR TARE

Command Sequence

CAL:TARE *<ch_list>*	*to correct channel offsets*
CAL:TARE?	*to return the success flag from the CAL:TARE operation*
CAL:STORE TARE	*Optional depending on necessity of long term storage*

CALibration:VALue:RESistance

CALibration:VALue:RESistance *<ref_ohms>* sends the value of the on-board reference resistor -as measured with the external “calibration DVM”- to the module. This value will be used to calibrate current sources.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Value	Default Units
ref_ohms	numeric (float32)	7,500±4%	ohms

Comments

- Use the CAL:CONF:RES command to configure the reference resistor for measurement at the Calibration Bus connector.
- A four-wire measurement of the resistor is made with an external multimeter connected to the **H Cal**, **L Cal**, **H ohm,** and **L ohm** terminals on the Terminal Module or the **V H**, **V L**, **Ω H,** and **Ω L** terminals on the Cal Bus connector.
- The <*ref_ohms*> parameter must be within 4% of the 7500 Ω nominal resistor value or a -222 'Data out of range' error will be generated.
- The <*ref_ohms*> parameter may be specified in kΩ (kohm).
- **When Accepted:** Not while INITiated
- **Related Commands:** CAL:CONF:RES, CAL:STORE ADC

Command Sequence

```
CAL:CONF:RES
(now measure ref resistor with external DMM)
CAL:VAL:RES  <measured value>          Send measured value to module
```

CALibration:VALue:VOLTage

CALibration:VALue:VOLTage *<ref_volts>* sends the value of the calibration reference source voltage -as measured by an external "calibration DVM"- to the module for A/D calibration.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
ref_volts	numeric (float32)	must be within 4% of range nominal	volts

Comments

- Use the CAL:CONF:VOLT command to configure the on-board voltage source for measurement at the Calibration Bus connector.
- A measurement of the source voltage is made with an external multimeter connected to the **H Cal** and **L Cal** terminals on the Terminal Module or the **V H** and **V L** terminals on the Cal Bus connector.
- The value sent must be for the currently configured range and output (zero or full scale) as set by the previous **CAL:CONF:VOLT *<range>*, ZERO | FSCale** command.

- The <*ref_volts*> parameter must be within 4% of the actual reference voltage value as read after CAL:CONF:VOLT or an error 3042 ‘0x400: DSP-DAC adjustment went to limit’ will be generated.
- The <*ref_volts*> parameter may be specified in millivolts (mv).
- **When Accepted:** Not while INITiated
- **Related Commands:** CAL:CONF:VOLT, CAL:STORE ADC

Command Sequence

```
CAL:CONF:VOLTAGE 4,FSCALE
*OPC?                          Wait for operation to complete

enter statement

(now measure voltage with external DMM)

CAL:VAL:VOLT <measured value>  Send measured value to module
```

CALibration:ZERO?

CALibration:ZERO? corrects Analog to Digital converter offset for any drift since the last *CAL? or CAL:ZERO? command was executed. The offset calibration takes about five seconds and should be done as often as the control set up allows.

Comments

- The CAL:ZERO? command only corrects for A/D offset drift (zero). Use the *CAL? common command to perform on-line calibration of channels as well as A/D offset. *CAL? performs gain and offset correction of the A/D and each channel with an analog SCP installed (both input and output).

- **Returned Value:**

Value	Meaning	Further Action
0	Cal OK	None
-1	Cal Error	Query the Error Queue (SYST:ERR?) See Error Messages in Appendix B

  The C-SCPI type for this returned value is **int16**.

- Executing this command **does not** alter the module's programmed state (function, range, etc.).
- **Related Commands:** *CAL?
- ***RST Condition:** A/D offset performed

Usage

```
CAL:ZERO?
enter statement here                    returns 0 or -1
```

DIAGnostic

The DIAGnostic subsystem allows special operations to be performed that are not standard in the SCPI language. This includes checking the current revision of the Control Processor's firmware and that it has been properly loaded into flash memory.

Subsystem Syntax

```
DIAGnostic
    :CALibration
        :SETup
            :MODE  0 | 1
            :MODE?
        :TARe
            [:OTD]
                :MODE  0 | 1
                :MODE?
    :CHECksum?
    :CUSTom
        :LINear <table_range>,<table_block>,(@<ch_list>)
        :PIECewise <table_range>,<table_block>,(@<ch_list>)
        :REFerence
            :TEMPerature
    :IEEE  1 | 0
    :IEEE?
    :INTerrupt
        [:LINe]  <intr_line>
        [:LINe]?
    :OTDetect
        [:STATe]  1 | 0 | ON | OFF,(@<ch_list>)
        [:STATe]?  (@<channel>)
    :QUERy
        :SCPREAD? <reg_addr>
    :VERSion?
```

DIAGnostic:CALibration:SETup[:MODE]

DIAGnostic:CALibration:SETup[:MODE] ***<mode>*** sets the type of calibration to use for analog output SCPs like the VT1531A and VT1532A when *CAL? or CAL:SET are executed.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
mode	boolean (uint 16)	0 | 1	volts

Comments

- When <*mode*> is set to 1 (the *RST Default) channels are calibrated using the Least Squares Fit method to provide the minimum error overall (over the entire output range). When <*mode*> is 0, channels are calibrated to provide the minimum error at their zero point. See the SCPs User's Manual for its accuracy specifications using each mode.
- **Related Commands:** *CAL?, CAL:SET, DIAG:CAL:SET:MODE?
- ***RST Condition:** DIAG:CAL:SET:MODE 1

Usage

set analog DAC SCP cal mode for best zero accuracy

```
DIAG:CAL:SET:MODE 0          set mode for best zero cal
*CAL?                        start channel calibration
```

DIAGnostic:CALibration:SETup[:MODE]?

DIAGnostic:CALibration:SETup[:MODE]? returns the currently set calibration mode for analog output DAC SCPs.

Comments

- Returns a 1 when channels are calibrated using the Least Squares Fit method to provide the minimum error overall (over the entire output range). Returns a 0 when channels are calibrated to provide the minimum error at their zero point. See the SCPs User's Manual for its accuracy specifications using each mode. The C-SCPI type is **int16**.
- **Related Commands:** DIAG:CAL:SET:MOD, *CAL?, CAL:SET
- ***RST Condition:** DIAG:CAL:SET:MODE 1

DIAGnostic:CALibration:TARE[:OTDetect]:MODE

DIAGnostic:CALibration:TARE[:OTDetect]:MODE ***<mode>*** sets whether Open Transducer Detect current will be turned off or left on (the default mode) during the CAL:TARE operation.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
mode	boolean (uint 16)	0 | 1	volts

Comments

- When <*mode*> is set to 0 (the *RST Default), channels are tare calibrated with their OTD current off. When <*mode*> is 1, channels that have their OTD current on (DIAGnostic:OTDetect ON,(@<*ch_list*>)) are tare calibrated with their OTD current left on.
- By default (*RST) the CALibration:TARE? command will calibrate all channels with the OTD circuitry disabled. This is done for two reasons: first, most users do not leave OTD enabled while taking readings and second, the CALibration:TARE? operation takes much longer with OTD enabled. However, for users who intend to take readings with OTD enabled, setting DIAG:CAL:TARE:OTD:MODE to 1, will force the CAL:TARE? command to perform calibration with OTD enabled on channels so specified by the user with the DIAG:OTD command.
- **Related Commands:** *CAL?, CAL:SET, DIAG:CAL:SET:MODE?
- ***RST Condition:** DIAG:CAL:TARE:MODE 0

Usage

```
configure OTD on during CAL:TARE
DIAG:CAL:TARE:MODE 1          set mode for OTD to stay on
CAL:TARE?                     start channel tare cal.
```

DIAGnostic:CALibration:TARE[:OTDetect]:MODE?

DIAGnostic:CALibration:TARE[:OTDetect]:MODE? returns the currently set mode for controlling Open Transducer Detect current while performing CAL:TARE? operation.

Comments

- Returns a 0 when OTD current will be turned off during CAL:TARE?. Returns 1 when OTD current will be left on during CAL:TARE? operation. The C-SCPI type is **int16**.
- **Related Commands:** DIAG:CAL:TARE:MOD, DIAG:OTD, CAL:TARE?
- ***RST Condition:** DIAG:CAL:TARE:MODE 0

DIAGnostic:CHECksum?

DIAGnostic:CHECksum? performs a checksum operation on flash memory. A returned value of 1 indicates that flash memory contents are correct. A returned value of 0 indicates that the flash memory is corrupted or has been erased.

Comments

- **Returned Value:** Returns 1 or 0. The C-SCPI type is **int16**.

Usage

```
DIAG:CHEC?                    Checksum flash memory, return 1 for OK, 0 for corrupted
```

DIAGnostic:CUSTom:LINear

DIAGnostic:CUSTom:LINear <*table_range*>,<*table_block*>, (@<*ch_list*>) downloads a custom linear Engineering Unit Conversion table (in <*table_block*>) to the VT1419A. Contact a VXI Technology System Engineer for more information on Custom Engineering Unit Conversion for specific applications.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
table_range	numeric (float32)	0.015625 | 0.03125 | 0.0625 | 0.125 | 0.25 | 0.5 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 16 | 32 | 64	volts
table_block	definite length block data	see comments	none
ch_list	channel list (string)	100 - 163	none

Comments

- The <*table_block*> parameter is a block of 8 bytes that define 4, 16-bit values. SCPI requires that <*table_block*> include the definite length block data header. C-SCPI adds the header automatically.
- The <*table_range*> parameter specifies the range of voltage that the table covers (from -<*table_range*> to +<*table_range*>). The value specified must be within 5% of one of the nominal values from the table above.
- The <*ch_list*> parameter specifies which channels may use this custom EU table.
- **Related Commands:** [SENSe:]FUNCtion:CUSTom
- ***RST Condition:** All custom EU tables erased

Usage

```
program puts table constants into array table_block
DIAG:CUST:LIN table_block,(@116:123)      send table to VT1419A for chs 16-23
SENS:FUNC:CUST:LIN 1,1,(@116:123)         link custom EU with chs 16-23
INITiate then TRIGger module
```

DIAGnostic:CUSTom:PIECewise

DIAGnostic:CUSTom:PIECewise <*table_range*>,<*table_block*>, (@<*ch_list*>) downloads a custom piece wise Engineering Unit Conversion table (in <*table_block*>) to the VT1419A. Contact a VXI Technology System Engineer for more information on Custom Engineering Unit Conversion for specific applications.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
table_range	numeric (float32)	0.015625 | 0.03125 | 0.0625 | 0.125 | 0.25 | 0.5 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 16 | 32 | 64	volts
table_block	definite length block data	see comments	none
ch_list	channel list (string)	100 - 163	none

Comments

- <*table_block*> is a block of 1,024 bytes that define 512 16-bit values. SCPI requires that <*table_block*> include the definite length block data header. C-SCPI adds the header automatically.
- <*table_range*> specifies the range of voltage that the table covers (from -<*table_range*> to +<*table_range*>).
- <*ch_list*> specifies which channels may use this custom EU table.
- **Related Commands:** [SENSe:]FUNCtion:CUSTom
- ***RST Condition:** All custom EU tables erased.

Usage

```
program puts table constants into array table_block
DIAG:CUST:PIEC table_block,(@124:131)   send table for chs 24-31 to VT1419A
SENS:FUNC:CUST:PIEC 1,1,(@124:131)   link custom EU with chs 24-31
INITiate then TRIGger module
```

DIAGnostic:CUSTom:REFerence:TEMPerature

DIAGnostic:CUSTom:REFerence:TEMPerature extracts the current Reference Temperature Register Contents, converts it to 32-bit floating point format and sends it to the FIFO. This command is used to verify that the reference temperature is as expected after measuring it using a custom reference temperature EU conversion table.

Usage

A program must have EU table values stored in <*table_block*>

```
        download the new reference EU table
DIAG:CUST:PIECEWISE <table_range>,<table_block>,(@<ch_list>)
        designate channel as reference
SENS:FUNC:CUST:REF <range>,(@<ch_list>)
```

set up scan list sequence (ch 0 in this case)

Now run the algorithm that uses the custom reference conversion table

dump reference temp register to FIFO

DIAG:CUST:REF:TEMP

read the diagnostic reference temperature value

SENS:DATA:FIFO?

DIAGnostic:IEEE

DIAGnostic:IEEE ***<mode>*** enables (1) or disables (0) IEEE-754 NAN (Not A Number) and ±INF value outputs. This command was created for the Agilent VEE platform.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
mode	boolean (uint 16)	0 | 1	volts

Comments

- When <*mode*> is set to 1, the module can return ±INF and NAN values according to the IEEE-754 standard. When <*mode*> is set to 0, the module returns values as ±9.9E37 for INF and 9.91E37 for NAN.
- **Related Commands:** DIAG:IEEE?
- ***RST Condition:** DIAG:IEEE 1

Usage

Set IEEE mode

DIAG:IEEE 1 *INF values returned in IEEE standard*

DIAGnostic:IEEE?

DIAGnostic:IEEE? returns the currently set IEEE mode.

Comments

- The C-SCPI type is **int16**.
- **Related Commands:** DIAG:IEEE
- ***RST Condition:** DIAG:IEEE 1

DIAGnostic:INTerrupt[:LINe]

DIAGnostic:INTerrupt[:LINe] ***<intr_line>*** sets the VXIbus interrupt line the module will use.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
intr_line	numeric (int16)	0 through 7	none

Comments

- **Related Commands:** DIAG:INT:LINE?
- **Power-on and *RST Condition:** DIAG:INT:LINE 1

Usage

DIAG:INT:LINE 5 *Module will interrupt on VXIbus interrupt line 5*

DIAGnostic:INTerrupt[:LINe]?

DIAGnostic:INTerrupt[:LINe]? returns the VXIbus interrupt line that the module is set to use.

Comments

- **Returned Value:** Numeric 0 through 7. The C-SCPI type is **int16**.
- **Related Commands:** DIAG:INT:LINE

Usage

DIAG:INT? *Enter statement will return 0 through 7*

DIAGnostic:OTDetect[:STATe]

DIAGnostic:OTDetect[:STATe] *<enable>*,(@*<ch_list>*) enables and disables the VT1419's "Open Transducer Detection" capability (OTD). When Open Transducer Detection is enabled, a very high impedance path connects all SCP channels to a voltage source greater than 16 volts. If an enabled channel has an open transducer, the input signal becomes the source voltage and the channel returns an input over-range value. The value returned is +9.91E+37 (ASCII).

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
enable	boolean (uint16)	1 | 0 | ON | OFF	none
ch_list	channel list (string)	100 - 163	none

Comments

- Open Transducer Detection is enabled/disabled on a whole Signal Conditioning Plug-On basis. Selecting any channel on an SCP selects all channels on that SCP (8 channels per SCP).
- The DIAG:CAL:TARE:MODE <*mode*> command affects how OTD is controlled during the CAL:TARE? operation. When <*mode*> is set to 0 (the *RST Default), channels are tare calibrated with their OTD current off. When <*mode*> is 1, channels that have their OTD current on (DIAGnostic:OTDetect ON,(@<*ch_list*>)) are tare calibrated with their OTD current left on.
- **Related Commands:** DIAG:OTDETECT:STATE?, DIAG:CAL:TARE:MODE
- ***RST Condition:** DIAG:OTDETECT OFF

NOTE If OTD is enabled when *CAL? or CAL:TARE is executed, the module will disable OTD, wait 1 minute to allow channels to settle, perform the calibration and then re-enable OTD.

Usage

```
DIAG:OTD  ON,(@100:107,115:123)        select OTD for the first and third SCP (complete channel lists for readability only)
DIAG:OTD:STATE  ON,(@100,115)          same function as example above (only first channel of each SCP specified)
DIAG:OTDETECT:STATE  OFF,(@108)        disable OTD for the 8 channels on the second SCP (only first channel of SCP specified)
```

DIAGnostic:OTDetect[:STATe]?

DIAGnostic:OTDetect[:STATe]? (@*<channel>*) returns the current state of "Open Transducer Detection" for the SCP containing the specified <*channel*>.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
channel	channel list (string)	100 - 163	none

Comments

- The <*channel*> parameter must specify a single channel only.
- **Returned Value:** Returns 1 (enabled) or 0 (disabled). The C-SCPI type is **int16**.
- **Related Commands:** DIAG:OTDETECT:STATE ON | OFF

Usage

```
DIAG:OTD:STATE?  (@108)                enter statement returns either a 1 or a 0
```

DIAGnostic:QUERy:SCPREAD?

DIAGnostic:QUERy:SCPREAD? *<reg_addr>* returns data word from a Signal Conditioning Plug-On register.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
reg_addr	numeric (int32)	0-65,535	none

Comments

- **Returned Value:** returns numeric register value. C-SCPI type is **int32**.

Usage

```
DIAG:QUERY:SCPREAD? 258                read Watchdog SCP's config/status register
enter statement here                   return SCP ID value
```

DIAGnostic:VERSion?

DIAGnostic:VERSion? returns the version of the firmware currently loaded into flash memory. The version information includes manufacturer, model, serial number, firmware version, and date.

Comments

- **Returned Value:** Examples of the response string format:
  AGILENT TECHNOLOGIES,E1419,US34000478,A.04.00,Thu Aug 5 9:38:07 MDT 1994
- The C-SCPI type is **string**.
- **Related Commands:** *IDN?

Note

Depending on the date and revision of the firmware, this response will vary. A "VXI Technology" response or an "Agilent Technologies" response may be seen.

Usage

```
DIAG:VERS?                    Returns version string as shown above
```

FETCh?

Subsystem Syntax FETCh?

The FETCh? command returns readings stored in VME memory.

Comments

- This command is only available in systems using an Agilent/HP E1405B/06A or command module.
- FETCH? does not alter the readings stored in VME memory. Only the *RST or INIT… commands will clear the readings in VME memory.
- The format of readings returned is set using the FORMat[:DATA] command.
- **Returned Value:** REAL,32, REAL,64, and PACK,64, readings are returned in the IEEE-488.2-1987 Definite Length Arbitrary Block Data format. This data return format is explained in “Arbitrary Block Program Data” on page 180 of this chapter. For REAL,32, readings are 4 bytes in length. For REAL 64 and PACK, 64, readings are 8 bytes in length.
- PACKed,64 returns the same values as REAL,64 except for Not-a-Number (NaN), IEEE +INF, and IEEE -INF. The NaN, IEEE +INF, and IEEE -INF values returned by PACKed,64 are in a form compatible with HP Workstation BASIC and HP BASIC/UX. Refer to the FORMat command for the actual values for NaN, +INF, and -INF.
- ASCii is the default format.
- ASCII readings are returned in the form ±1.234567E±123. For example 13.325 volts would be +1.3325000E+001. Each reading is followed by a comma (,). A line feed (LF) and End-Or-Identify (EOI) follow the last reading.
- **Related Commands:** MEMory Subsystem, FORMat[:DATA]
- ***RST Condition:** MEMORY:VME:ADDRESS 240000; MEMORY:VME:STATE OFF; MEMORY:VME:SIZE 0

Use Sequence

```
MEM:VME:ADDR #H300000
MEM:VME:SIZE #H100000          1 megabyte (MB) or 262,144 readings
MEM:VME:STAT ON
        *
        *       (set up VT1419A for scanning)
        *
TRIG:SOUR IMM                  let unit trigger on INIT
INIT                           program execution remains here until VME memory
                               is full or the VT1419A has stopped taking readings
FORM REAL,64                   affects only the return of data
FETCH?
```

NOTE When using the MEM subsystem, the module must be triggered before executing the INIT command (as shown above) unless an external trigger (EXT trigger) is used. When using EXT trigger, the trigger can occur at any time.

The FORMat subsystem provides commands to set and query the response data format of readings returned using the [SENSe:]DATA:FIFO:…? commands.

Subsystem Syntax

```
FORMat
    [:DATA] <format>[,<size>]
    [:DATA]?
```

FORMat[:DATA]

FORMat[:DATA] *<format>*[,*<size>*] sets the format for data returned using the [SENSe:]DATA:FIFO:…?, [SENSe:]DATA:CVTable and FETCh? commands.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
format	discrete (string)	REAL | ASCii | PACKed	none
size	numeric	for ASCii, 7 for REAL, 32 | 64 for PACKed, 64	none

Comments

- The REAL format is IEEE-754 Floating Point representation.
- REAL, 32 provides the highest data transfer performance since no format conversion step is placed between reading and returning the data. The default *size* for the REAL format is 32 bits. Also see DIAG:IEEE command.
- PACKed, 64 returns the same values as REAL, 64 except for Not-a-Number (NaN), IEEE +INF, and IEEE -INF. The NaN, IEEE +INF, and IEEE -INF values returned by PACKed,64 are in a form compatible with HP Workstation BASIC and HP BASIC/UX (see table on following page).
- REAL 32, REAL 64, and PACK 64, readings are returned in the IEEE-488.2-1987 Arbitrary Block Data format. The Block Data may be either Definite Length or Indefinite Length depending on the data query command executed. These data return formats are explained in “Arbitrary Block Program Data” on page 180 of this chapter. For REAL 32, readings are 4 bytes in length (C-SCPI type is **float32 array**). For REAL 64 and PACK, 64, readings are 8 bytes in length (C-SCPI type is **float64 array**).
- ASCii is the default format. ASCII readings are returned in the form ±1.234567E±123. For example 13.325 volts would be +1.3325000E+001. Each reading is followed by a comma (,). A line feed (LF) and End-Or-Identify (EOI) follow the last reading (C-SCPI type is **string array**).

NOTE *TST? leaves the instrument in its power-on reset state. This means that the ASC,7 data format is set even if it was set to something else before executing *TST?. If it is necessary to read the FIFO for test information, set the format after *TST? and before reading the FIFO.

- **Related Commands:** [SENSe:]DATA:FIFO:…?, [SENSe:]DATA:CVTable?, MEMory subsystem and FETCh? Also see how DIAG:IEEE can modify REAL,32 returned values.
- ***RST Condition:** ASCII, 7
- After *RST/Power-on, each channel location in the CVT contains the IEEE-754 value “Not-a-number” (NaN). Channel readings which are a positive overvoltage return IEEE +INF and a negative overvoltage return IEEE -INF. The NaN, +INF, and -INF values for each format are shown in the following table.

Format	IEEE Term	Value	Meaning
ASCii	+INF	+9.9E37	Positive Overload
	-INF	-9.9E37	Negative Overload
	NaN	+9.91E37	No Reading
REAL,32	+INF	$7F800000_{16}$	Positive Overload
	-INF	$FF800000_{16}$	Negative Overload
	NaN	$7FFFFFFF_{16}$	No Reading
REAL,64	+INF	$7FF000...00_{16}$	Positive Overload
	-INF	$FFF000...00_{16}$	Negative Overload
	NaN	$7FFF...FF_{16}$	No Reading
PACKed,64	+INF	$47D2\ 9EAD\ 3677\ AF6F_{16}$ ($+9.0E37_{10}$)	Positive Overload
	-INF	$C7D2\ 9EAD\ 3677\ AF6F_{16}$ ($-9.0E37_{10}$)	Negative Overload
	NaN	$47D2\ A37D\ CED4\ 6143_{16}$ ($+9.91E37_{10}$)	No Reading

Usage

```
FORMAT REAL          Set format to IEEE 32-bit Floating Point
FORM REAL, 64        Set format to IEEE 64-bit Floating Point
FORMAT ASCII, 7      Set format to 7-bit ASCII
```

FORMat[:DATA]?

FORMat[:DATA]? returns the currently set response data format for readings.

Comments

- **Returned Value:** Returns REAL, +32 | REAL, +64 | PACK, +64 | ASC, +7. The C-SCPI type is **string, int16**.
- **Related Commands:** FORMAT

- ***RST Condition:** ASCII, 7

Usage FORMAT? *Returns REAL, +32 | REAL, +64 | PACK, +64 | ASC, +7*

The INITiate command subsystem moves the VT1419A from the Trigger Idle State to the Waiting For Trigger State. When initiated, the instrument is ready to receive one (:IMMediate) or more (depending on TRIG:COUNT) trigger events. On each trigger, the module will perform one control cycle which includes reading analog and digital input channels (Input Phase), executing all defined algorithms (Calculate Phase) and updating output channels (Output Phase). See the TRIGger subsystem to specify the trigger source and count.

Subsystem Syntax

```
INITiate
    [:IMMediate]
```

INITiate[:IMMediate]

INITiate[:IMMediate] changes the trigger system from the Idle state to the Wait For Trigger state. When triggered, one or more (depending on TRIGger:COUNt) trigger cycles occur and the instrument returns to the Trigger Idle state.

Comments

- INIT:IMM clears the FIFO and Current Value Table.
- If a trigger event is received before the instrument is Initiated, a -211 “Trigger ignored” error is generated.
- If another trigger event is received before the instrument has completed the current trigger cycle (measurement scan), the Questionable Data Status bit 9 is set and a +3012 “Trigger too fast” error is generated.
- Sending INIT while the system is still in the Wait for Trigger state (already INITiated) will cause an error -213,"Init ignored."
- Sending the ABORt command send the trigger system to the Trigger Idle state when the current input-calculate-output cycle is completed.
- If updates are pending, they are made prior to beginning the Input phase.
- **When Accepted:** Not while INITiated
- **Related Commands:** ABORt, CONFigure, TRIGger
- ***RST Condition:** Trigger system is in the Idle state.

Usage

```
INIT                          Both versions same function
INITIATE:IMMEDIATE
```

The INPut subsystem controls configuration of programmable *input* Signal Conditioning Plug-Ons (SCPs).

Subsystem Syntax

```
INPut
    :DEBounce
        :TIME  <time>,(@<ch_list>)
    :FILTer
        [:LPASs]
            :FREQuency  <cutoff_freq>,(@<ch_list>)
            :FREQuency?  (@<channel>)
            [:STATe]  1 | 0 | ON | OFF,(@<channel>)
            [:STATe]?  (@<channel>)
    :GAIN  <chan_gain>,(@<ch_list>)
    :GAIN?  (@<channel>)
    :LOW <wvolt_type>,(@<ch_list>)
    :LOW?  (@<channel>)
    :POLarity  NORMal | INVerted,(@<ch_list>)
    :POLarity?  (@<channel>)
    :THReshold
        LEVel?  (@<channel>)
```

INPut:DEBounce:TIME

INPut:DEBounce:TIME *<time>,(@<ch_list>)* sets the debounce time on the specified digital input channels.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
time	numeric (float32) (string)	see comment | MIN | MAX	Hz
ch_list	channel list (string)	132 - 163	none

Comments

- For a description of the debounce function see “Debounce Function” in the VT1536A SCP manual. The VT1536A has two debounce timers. One for the lower four channels and one for the upper four channels. To set the debounce timers use the command:
  INPut:DEBounce:TIME <*time*>,(@<*ch_list*>)

- The <*time*> parameter can be one of 16 possible numeric values or MIN and MAX:

0	150 µs	300 µs	600 µs
1.2 ms	2.4 ms	4.8 ms	9.6 ms
19.2 ms	38.4 ms	76.6 ms	153.6 ms
307.2 ms	614.4 ms	1.2288 s	2.4576 s

  – Sending 0 or MIN turns debounce off. Sending MAX selects 2.458 seconds.

  – If a value is sent that is slightly greater than one of these values, the next higher value (or MAX) is selected. Values outside of the range 0 - 2.4576 will generate the error -222, “Data out of range”.

- Since the VT1536A has two debounce timers (one for each bank of 4 channels) <*ch_list*> must contain all four of the upper-bank channels or all four of the lower-bank channels or all eight channels for a given SCP. This is because the VT1536A has two debounce timers, one for its lower four channels and one for its upper four channels.

Note The INP:DEB:TIME generate the error 3108, “E1536 debounce - each referenced 4 Ch bank must contain at least one input”. This error indicates that <*ch_list*> referenced a bank of channels that contains no input configured channel.

- **Usage:** To set the debounce period to 153.6 ms for the lower four channels on a VT1536A in SCP position 0 send:

```
INP:DEB  0.1536,(@100:103)
```

To set the debounce period to 1.229 seconds for the upper four channels on a VT1536A in SCP position 3 send:

```
INP:DEB  1.229,(@128:131)
```

- There is also the query form; **INPut:DEBounce:TIME? (@<*channel*>)** where <*channel*> must specify a single channel. INP:DEB:TIME? returns the currently set debounce period.

INPut:FILTer[:LPASs]:FREQuency

INPut:FILTer[:LPASs]:FREQuency <*cutoff_freq*>,(@<*ch_list*>) sets the cutoff frequency of the filter on the specified channels.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
cutoff_freq	numeric (float32) (string)	see comment | MIN | MAX	Hz
ch_list	channel list (string)	132 - 163	none

Comments

- The <*cutoff_freq*> parameter may be specified in kilohertz (kHz). A programmable Filter SCP has a choice of several discrete cutoff frequencies. The cutoff frequency set will be the one closest to the value specified by <*cutoff_freq*>. Refer to Chapter 6 for specific information on the SCP being programmed.
- Sending MAX for the <*cutoff_freq*> selects the SCP's highest cutoff frequency. Sending MIN for the <*cutoff_freq*> selects the SCP's lowest cutoff frequency. To disable filtering (the "pass through" mode), execute the INP:FILT:STATE OFF command.
- Sending a value greater than the SCP's highest cutoff frequency or less than the SCP's lowest cutoff frequency generates a -222 "Data out of range" error.
- **When Accepted:** Not while INITiated
- **Related Commands:** INP:FILT:FREQ?, INP:FILT:STAT ON | OFF
- ***RST Condition:** set to MIN

Usage

```
INP:FILT:FREQ  100,(@140:143)        Set cutoff frequency of 100 Hz for channels 40 through 43
INPUT:FILTER:FREQ  2,(@155)          Set cutoff frequency of 2 Hz for channel 55
```

INPut:FILTer[:LPASs]:FREQuency?

INPut:FILTer[:LPASs]:FREQuency? (@<*channel*>) returns the cutoff frequency currently set for <*channel*>. Non-programmable SCP channels may be queried to determine their fixed cutoff frequency. If the channel is not on an input SCP, the query will return zero.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
channel	channel list (string)	100 - 163	none

Comments

- The <*channel*> parameter must specify a single channel only.
- This command is for programmable filter SCPs only.
- **Returned Value:** Numeric value of Hz as set by the INP:FILT:FREQ command. The C-SCPI type is **float32**.

- **When Accepted:** Not while INITiated
- **Related Commands:** INP:FILT:LPAS:FREQ, INP:FILT:STATE
- ***RST Condition:** MIN

Usage

```
INPUT:FILTER:LPASS:FREQ? (@155)     Check cutoff freq on channel 55
INP:FILT:FREQ? (@100)               Check cutoff freq on channel 0
```

INPut:FILTer[:LPASs][:STATe]

INPut:FILTer[:LPASs][:STATe] <*enable*>,(@<*ch_list*>) enables or disables a programmable filter SCP channel. When disabled (*enable*=OFF), these channels are in their "pass through" mode and provide no filtering. When re-enabled (*enable*=ON), the SCP channel reverts to its previously programmed setting.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
enable	boolean (uint16)	1 | 0 | ON | OFF	none
ch_list	channel list (string)	132 - 163	none

Comments

- If the SCP has not yet been programmed, ON enables the SCP's default cutoff frequency.
- **When Accepted:** Not while INITiated
- ***RST Condition:** ON

Usage

```
INPUT:FILTER:STATE ON,(@132,134)    Channels 32 and 34 return to previously set (or
                                    default) cutoff frequency
INP:FILT OFF,(@132:139)             Set channels 32-39 to "pass-through" state
```

INPut:FILTer[:LPASs][:STATe]?

INPut:FILTer[LPASs][:STATe]? (@<*channel*>) returns the currently set state of filtering for the specified channel. If the channel is not on an input SCP, the query will return zero.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
channel	channel list (string)	100 - 163	none

Comments

- **Returned Value:** Numeric value either 0 (off or "pass-through") or 1 (on). The C-SCPI type is **int16**.
- The <*channel*> parameter must specify a single channel only.

Usage

```
INPUT:FILTER:LPASS:STATE? (@115)      Enter statement returns either 0 or 1
INP:FILT? (@115)                      Same as above
```

INPut:GAIN

INPut:GAIN <*gain*>,(@<*ch_list*>) sets the channel gain on programmable amplifier Signal Conditioning Plug-Ons.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
gain	numeric (float32) discrete (string)	see comment | MIN | MAX	none
ch_list	channel list (string)	132 - 163	none

Comments

- A programmable amplifier SCP has a choice of several discrete gain settings. The gain set will be the one closest to the value specified by <*gain*>. Refer to the SCP manual for specific information on the SCP being programmed. Sending MAX will program the highest gain available with the SCP installed. Sending MIN will program the lowest gain.
- Sending a value for <*gain*> that is greater than the highest or less than the lowest setting allowable for the SCP will generate a -222 “Data out of range” error.
- **When Accepted:** Not while INITiated
- **Related Commands:** INP:GAIN?
- ***RST Condition:** gain set to MIN

Usage

```
INP:GAIN 8,(@140:147)                 Set gain of 8 for channels 40 through 47
INPUT:GAIN 64,(@155)                  Set gain of 64 for channel 55
```

INPut:GAIN?

INPut:GAIN? (@<*channel*>) returns the gain currently set for <*channel*>. If the channel is not on an input SCP, the query will return zero.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
channel	channel list (string)	100 - 163	none

Comments

- <*channel*> must specify a single channel only.
- If the channel specified does not have a programmable amplifier, INP:GAIN? will return the nominal as-designed gain for that channel.

- **Returned Value:** Numeric value as set by the INP:GAIN command. The C-SCPI type is **float32.**
- **When Accepted:** Not while INITiated
- **Related Commands:** INP:GAIN
- ***RST Condition:** gain set to 1

Usage

```
INPUT:GAIN? (@105)        Check gain on channel 5
INP:GAIN? (@100)          Check gain on channel 0
```

INPut:LOW

INPut:LOW <*wvolt_type*>,(@<*ch_list*>) controls the connection of input LO at a Strain Bridge SCP channel specified by <*ch_list*>. LO can be connected to the Wagner Voltage ground or left floating.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
wvolt_type	discrete (string)	FLOat | WVOLtage	none
ch_list	channel list (string)	132 - 163	none

Comments

- **Related Commands:** INP:LOW?
- ***RST Condition:** INP:LOW FLOAT (all VT1511A channels)

Usage

```
INP:LOW WVOL (@132:139,148:155)    connect LO of channels 32 through 39 and 48
                                   through 55 to Wagner Ground.
```

INPut:LOW?

INPut:LOW? (@<*channel*>) returns the LO input configuration for the channel specified by <*channel*>.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
channel	channel list (string)	132 - 163	none

Comments

- The <*channel*> parameter must specify a single channel only.
- **Returned Value:** Returns FLO or WV. The C-SCPI type is **string**.
- **Related Commands:** INP:LOW

Usage INP:LOW? (@148) *enter statement will return either FLO or WV for channel 48*

INPut:POLarity

INPut:POLarity <*mode*>,<*ch_list*> sets logical input polarity on a digital SCP channel.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
mode	discrete (string)	NORMal | INVerted	none
ch_list	string	132 - 163	none

Comments

- If the channels specified are on an SCP that doesn't support this function, an error will be generated. See the SCP's User's Manual to determine its capabilities.
- **Related Commands:** for output sense; SOURce:PULSe:POLarity
- ***RST Condition:** INP:POL NORM for all digital SCP channels.

Usage INP:POL INV,(@140:143) *invert first 4 channels on SCP at SCP position 5. Channels 40 through 43*

INPut:POLarity?

INPut:POLarity? <*channel*> returns the logical input polarity on a digital SCP channel.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
channel	string	132 - 163	none

Comments

- The <*channel*> parameter must specify a single channel.
- If the channel specified is on an SCP that doesn't support this function, an error will be generated. See the SCP's User's Manual to determine its capabilities.
- **Returned Value:** returns "NORM" or "INV". The type is **string**.

INPut:THReshold:LEVel?

INPut:THReshold:LEVel (@<*channel*>) returns the currently set input threshold level.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
channel	string	132 - 163	none

Comments

- The <*channel*> parameter must specify a single channel.
- For the VT1536A Isolated Digital I/O SCP, INP:THR:LEV? returns a numeric value which is one of 5, 12, 24, 48, or 0 (zero) where zero means that the channel is configured as an output and non-zero values indicate the input threshold in volts.

Note

If an invalid switch combination is set on a VT1536A, INP:THR:LEV? will NOT return a value and will generate the error 3105 “Invalid SCP switch setting”. This error will also be generated when *RST is executed. Channels associated with this error will behave as input channels with unknown threshold levels.

- **Usage:** To query the threshold level on the second channel at SCP position 2 send:

```
INP:THR:LEV? (@117)          query 2nd chan on SCP pos. 2
enter statement here         returns 0 | 5 | 12 | 24 | 48
```

The MEMory subsystem allows using VME memory as an additional reading storage buffer.

Subsystem Syntax

```
MEMory
    :VME
        :ADDRess <A24_address>
        :ADDRess?
        :SIZE <mem_size>
        :SIZE?
        :STATe 1 | 0 | ON | OFF
        :STATe?
```

NOTE This subsystem is only available in systems using an Agilent/HP E1405B/06A command module.

Use Sequence

```
*RST
MEM:VME:ADDR #H300000
MEM:VME:SIZE #H100000                    1 MB or 262,144 readings
MEM:VME:STAT ON
        *
        *       (set up VT1419A for scanning)
        *
TRIG:SOUR IMM                            let unit trigger on INIT
INIT
*OPC?                                    program execution remains here until VME
                                         memory is full or the VT1419A has stopped
                                         taking readings
FORM REAL,64                             affects only the return of data
FETCH?                                   return data from VME memory
```

NOTE When using the MEM subsystem, the module must be triggered before executing the INIT command (as shown above) unless an external trigger (EXT trigger) is being used. When using EXT trigger, the trigger can occur at any time.

MEMory:VME:ADDRess

MEMory:VME:ADDRess ***<A24_address>*** sets the A24 address of the VME memory card to be used as additional reading storage.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
A24_address	numeric	valid A24 address	none

Comments

- This command is only available in systems using an Agilent/HP E1405B/06A command module.
- The default (if MEM:VME:ADDR not executed) is 240000_{16}.
- The *<A24_address>* parameter may be specified in decimal, hex (#H), octal (#Q), or binary (#B).
- **Related Commands:** MEMory subsystem, FORMat and FETCH?
- ***RST Condition:** VME memory address starts at 200000_{16}. When using an Agilent/HP E1405/6 command module, the first VT1419A occupies 200000_{16} - $23FFFF_{16}$.

Usage

MEM:VME:ADDR #H400000 — *Set the address for the VME memory card to be used as reading storage*

MEMory:VME:ADDRess?

MEMory:VME:ADDRess? returns the address specified for the VME memory card used for reading storage.

Comments

- **Returned Value:** numeric.
- This command is only available in systems using an Agilent/HP E1405B/06A command module.
- **Related Commands:** MEMory subsystem, FORMat and FETCH?

Usage

MEM:VME:ADDR? — *Returns the address of the VME memory card.*

MEMory:VME:SIZE

MEMory:VME:SIZE ***<mem_size>*** Specifies the number of bytes of VME memory to allocate for additional reading storage.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
mem_size	numeric	to limit of available VME memory	none

Comments

- This command is only available in systems using an Agilent/HP E1405B/06A command module.
- The <*mem_size*> parameter may be specified in decimal, hex (#H), octal (#Q), or binary(#B).
- The <*mem_size*> parameter should be a multiple of four (4) to accommodate 32 bit readings.
- **Related Commands:** MEMory subsystem, FORMAT, and FETCH?
- ***RST Condition:** MEM:VME:SIZE 0

Usage

```
MEM:VME:SIZE  32768
```

Allocate 32 kilobytes (kB) of VME memory to reading storage (8,192 readings)

MEMory:VME:SIZE?

MEMory:VME:SIZE? returns the amount (in bytes) of VME memory allocated to reading storage.

Comments

- This command is only available in systems using an Agilent/HP E1405B/06A command module.
- **Returned Value:** Numeric.
- **Related Commands:** MEMory subsystem and FETCH?

Usage

```
MEM:VME:SIZE?
```

Returns the number of bytes allocated to reading storage.

MEMory:VME:STATe

MEMory:VME:STATe ***<enable>*** enables or disables use of the VME memory card as additional reading storage.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
enable	boolean (uint16)	1 | 0 | ON | OFF	none

Comments

- This command is only available in systems using an Agilent/HP E1405B/06A command module.

- When the VME memory card is enabled, the INIT command does not terminate until data acquisition stops or VME memory is full.
- **Related Commands:** Memory subsystem and FETCH?
- ***RST Condition:** MEM:VME:STAT OFF

Usage

```
MEMORY:VME:STATE ON      enable VME card as reading storage
MEM:VME:STAT 0           Disable VME card as reading storage
```

MEMory:VME:STATe?

MEMory:VME:STATe? returned value of 0 indicates that VME reading storage is disabled. Returned value of 1 indicates VME memory is enabled.

Comments

- This command is only available in systems using an Agilent/HP E1405B/06A command module.
- **Returned Value:** Numeric 1 or 0. C-SCPI type **uint16**.
- **Related Commands:** MEMory subsystem and FETCH?

Usage

```
MEM:VME:STAT?            Returns 1 for enabled, 0 for disabled
```

The OUTPut subsystem is involved in programming source SCPs as well as controlling the state of VXIbus TTLTRG lines 0 through 7.

Subsystem Syntax

```
OUTPut
    :CURRent
        :AMPLitude  <amplitude>,(@<ch_list>)
        :AMPLitude?  (@<channel>)
        [:STATe]  1 | 0 | ON | OFF,(@<ch_list>)
        [:STATe]?  (@<channel>)
    :POLarity  NORMal | INVerted,(@<ch_list>)
    :POLarity?  (@<channel>)
    :SHUNt  1 | 0 | ON | OFF,(@<ch_list>)
    :SHUNt?  (@<channel>)
    :TTLTrg
        :SOURce  TRIGger | FTRigger | SCPlugon | LIMit
        :SOURce?
    :TTLTrg<n>
        [:STATe]  1 | 0 | ON | OFF
        [:STATe]?
    :TYPE  PASSive | ACTive,(@<ch_list>)
    :TYPE?  (@<channel>)
    :VOLTage
        :AMPLitude <amplitude>,(@<ch_list>)
        :AMPLitude? (@<channel>)
```

OUTPut:CURRent:AMPLitude

OUTPut:CURRent:AMPLitude *<amplitude>*,(@*<ch_list>*) sets the VT1505A Current Source SCP channels specified by *<ch_list>* to either 488 μA or 30 μA. This current is typically used for four-wire resistance and resistance temperature measurements.

NOTE This command does not set current amplitude on SCPs like the VT1532A Current Output SCP.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
amplitude	numeric (float32)	MIN | 30E-6 | MAX | 488E-6	A dc
ch_list	channel list (string)	132 - 163	none

Comments

- Select 488E-6 (or MAX) for measuring resistances of less than 8000 Ω. Select 30E-6 (or MIN) for resistances of 8000 Ω and above. ***amplitude*** may be specified in μA (ua).
- For resistance temperature measurements ([SENSe:]FUNCtion:TEMPerature) the Current Source SCP must be set as follows:

Required Current Amplitude	Temperature Sensor Types and Subtypes
MAX (488 μA) MIN (30 μA)	RTD,85 | 92 and THER,2250 THER,5000 | 10000

- When *CAL? is executed, the current sources are calibrated on the range selected at that time.
- **When Accepted:** Not while INITiated
- **Related Commands:** *CAL?, OUTP:CURR:AMPL?
- ***RST Condition:** MIN

Usage

```
OUTP:CURR:AMPL 488ua,(@140:147)    Set Current Source SCP at channels 40 through 47 to 488 µA
OUTP:CURR:AMPL 30E-6,(@148)        Set Current Source SCP at ch 48 to 30 µA
```

OUTPut:CURRent:AMPLitude?

OUTPut:CURRent:AMPLitude? (@*<channel>*) returns the range setting of the Current Source SCP channel specified by <*channel*>.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
channel	channel list (string)	132 - 163	none

Comments

- The <*channel*> parameter must specify a single channel.
- If <*channel*> specifies an SCP which is not a Current Source, a +3007, “Invalid signal conditioning plug-on” error is generated.
- **Returned Value:** Numeric value of amplitude set. The C-SCPI type is **float32**.
- **Related Commands:** OUTP:CURR:AMPL

Usage OUTP:CURR:AMPLITUDE? (@140) *Check SCP current set for channel 40 (returns +3.0E-5 or +4.88E-4)*

OUTPut:CURRent[:STATe]

OUTPut:CURRent[:STATe] <*enable*>,(@<*ch_list*>) enables or disables current source on channels specified in <*ch_list*>.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
enable	boolean (uint16)	1 | 0 | ON | OFF	none
ch_list	channel list (string)	132 - 163	none

Comments

- OUTP:CURR:STAT does not affect a channel's amplitude setting. A channel that has been disabled, when re-enabled sources the same current set by the previous OUTP:CURR:AMPL command.
- OUTP:CURR:STAT is most commonly used to turn off excitation current to four-wire resistance (and resistance temperature device) circuits during execution of CAL:TARE for those channels.
- **When Accepted:** Not while INITiated
- **Related Commands:** OUTP:CURR:AMPL, CAL:TARE
- ***RST Condition:** OUTP:CURR OFF (all channels)

Usage OUTP:CURR OFF,(@140,147) *turn off current source channels 40 and 47*

OUTPut:CURRent[:STATe]?

OUTPut:CURRent[:STATe]? (@<*channel*>) returns the state of the Current Source SCP channel specified by <*channel*>. If the channel is not on a VT1505A Current Source SCP, the query will return zero.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
channel	channel list (string)	132 - 163	none

Comments

- The <*channel*> parameter must specify a single channel.
- **Returned Value:** returns 1 for enabled, 0 for disabled. C-SCPI type is **uint16**.
- **Related Commands:** OUTP:CURR:STATE, OUTP:CURR:AMPL

Usage OUTP:CURR? (@147) *query for state of Current SCP channel 47*
execute enter statement here *enter query value, either 1 or 0*

OUTPut:POLarity

OUTPut:POLarity <*select*>,(@<*ch_list*>) sets the polarity on digital output channels in <*ch_list*>.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
select	discrete (string)	NORMal | INVerted	none
ch_list	string	132 - 163	none

Comments

- If the channels specified do not support this function, an error will be generated.
- **Related Commands**: INPut:POLarity, OUTPut:POLarity?
- ***RST Condition:** OUTP:POL NORM for all digital channels

Usage

```
OUTP:POL  INV,(@156)          invert output logic sense on channel 56
```

OUTPut:POLarity?

OUTPut:POLarity? (@<*channel*>) returns the polarity on the digital output channel in <*channel*>.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
channel	string	132 - 163	none

Comments

- The <*channel*> parameter must specify a single channel.
- **Returned Value:** returns one of NORM or INV. The type is **string**.

OUTPut:SHUNt

OUTPut:SHUNt <*enable*>,(@<*ch_list*>) adds shunt resistance to one leg of bridge on Strain Bridge Completion SCPs. This can be used for diagnostic purposes and characterization of bridge response.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
enable	boolean (uint16)	0 | 1 | ON | OFF	none
ch_list	channel list (string)	132 - 163	none

Comments

- If <*ch_list*> specifies a non strain SCP, a 3007 “Invalid signal conditioning plug-on” error is generated.

- **When Accepted:** Not while INITiated
- **Related Commands:** [SENSe:]FUNCtion:STRain…, [SENSe:]STRain…
- ***RST Condition:** OUTP:SHUNT 0 on all Strain SCP channels

Usage

```
OUTP:SHUNT 1,(@148:151)        add shunt resistance at channels 48 - 51
```

OUTPut:SHUNt?

OUTPut:SHUNt? (@<*channel*>) returns the status of the shunt resistance on the specified Strain SCP channel.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
channel	channel list (string)	132 - 163	none

Comments

- The <*channel*> parameter must specify a single channel.
- If <*channel*> specifies a non-strain SCP, a 3007 “Invalid signal conditioning plug-on” error is generated.
- **Returned Value:** Returns 1 or 0. The C-SCPI type is **uint16**.
- **Related Commands:** OUTP:SHUNT

Usage

```
OUTPUT:SHUNt? (@151)        Check status of shunt resistance on channel 51
```

OUTPut:TTLTrg:SOURce

OUTPut:TTLTrg:SOURce <*trig_source*> selects the internal source of the trigger event that will operate the VXIbus TTLTRG lines.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
trig_source	discrete (string)	ALGorithm | TRIGger | FTRigger | SCPlugon	none

Comments

- The following table explains the possible choices.

Parameter Value	Source of Trigger
ALGorithm	Generated by the Algorithm Language function "interrupt()"
FTRigger	Generated on the First Trigger of a multiple "counted scan" (set by TRIG:COUNT <*trig_count*>)
SCPlugon	Generated by a Signal Conditioning Plug-On (SCP). Do not use this when Sample-and-Hold SCPs are installed.
TRIGger	Generated every time a scan is triggered (see TRIG:SOUR <*trig_source*>)

- FTRigger (First TRigger) is used to generate a single TTLTRG output when repeated triggers are being used to make multiple executions of the enabled algorithms. The TTLTRG line will go low (asserted) at the first trigger event and stay low through subsequent triggers until the trigger count (as set by TRIG:COUNT) is exhausted. At this point the TTLTRG line will return to its high state (de-asserted). This feature can be used to signal when the VT1419A has started running its control algorithms.
- **Related Commands:** OUTP:TTLT<n>[:STATE], OUTP:TTLT:SOUR?, TRIG:SOUR, TRIG:COUNT
- ***RST Condition:** OUTP:TTLT:SOUR TRIG

Usage

```
OUTP:TTLT:SOUR TRIG
```

toggle TTLTRG line every time module is triggered (use to trigger other VT1419As)

OUTPut:TTLTrg:SOURce?

OUTPut:TTLTrg:SOURce? returns the current setting for the TTLTRG line source.

Comments

- **Returned Value:** Discrete, either TRIG, FTR, or SCP. C-SCPI type is **string**.
- **Related Commands:** OUTP:TTLT:SOUR

Usage

```
OUTP:TTLT:SOUR?
```

enter statement will return on of FTR, SCP, or TRIG

OUTPut:TTLTrg<n>[:STATe]

OUTPut:TTLTrg<n>:STATe ***<ttltrg_cntrl>*** specifies which VXIbus TTLTRG line is enabled to source a trigger signal when the module is triggered. TTLTrg<n> can specify line 0 through 7. For example, …:TTLTRG4 or TTLT4 for VXIbus TTLTRG line 4.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
ttltrg_cntrl	boolean (uint16)	1 | 0 | ON | OFF	none

Comments

- Only one VXIbus TTLTRG line can be enabled simultaneously.
- **When Accepted:** Not while INITiated
- **Related Commands:** ABORT, INIT…, TRIG…
- ***RST Condition:** OUTPut:TTLTrg<0 through 7> OFF

Usage

```
OUTP:TTLT2 ON                    Enable TTLTRG2 line to source a trigger
OUTPUT:TTLTRG7:STATE ON          Enable TTLTRG7 line to source a trigger
```

OUTPut:TTLTrg<n>[:STATe]?

OUTPut:TTLTrg<n>[:STATe]? returns the current state for TTLTRG line <n>.

Comments

- **Returned Value:** Returns 1 or 0. The C-SCPI type is **int16**.
- **Related Commands:** OUTP:TTLT<n>

Usage

```
OUTP:TTLT2?                      See if TTLTRG2 line is enabled (returns 1 or 0)
OUTPUT:TTLTRG7:STATE?            See if TTLTRG7 line is enabled
```

OUTPut:TYPE

OUTPut:TYPE <*select*>,(@<*ch_list*>) sets the output drive characteristic for digital SCP channels.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
select	discrete (string)	PASSive | ACTive	seconds
ch_list	string	132 - 163	none

Comments

- If the channels specified are on an SCP that doesn't support this function an error will be generated. See the SCP's User's Manual to determine its capabilities.
- PASSive configures the digital channel/bit to be passive (resistor) pull-up to allows more than one output to wire-or'd together.
- ACTive configures the digital channel/bit to both source and sink current.
- **Related Commands:** SOURce:PULSe:POLarity, OUTPut:TYPE?
- ***RST Condition:** OUTP:TYPE ACTIVE (for TTL compatibility)

Usage

```
OUTP:TYPE PASS,(@156:159)        make channels 56 to 59 passive pull-up
```

OUTPut:TYPE?

OUTPut:TYPE? <*channel*> returns the output drive characteristic for a digital channel.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
channel	string	132 - 163	none

Comments

- The <*channel*> parameter must specify a single channel.
- If the channel specified is not on a digital SCP, an error will be generated.
- **Returned Value:** returns PASS or ACT. The type is **string**.
- ***RST Condition:** returns ACT

OUTPut:VOLTage:AMPLitude

OUTPut:VOLTage:AMPLitude <*amplitude*>,(@<*ch_list*>) sets the excitation voltage on programmable Strain Bridge Completion SCPs pointed to by <*ch_list*> (the VT1511A for example). This command is not used to set output voltage on SCPs like the VT1531A Voltage Output SCP.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
amplitude	numeric (float32)	MIN | 0 |1 | 2 | 5 | 10 | MAX	none
ch_list	channel list (string)	132 - 163	none

Comments

- To turn off excitation voltage (when using external voltage source) program <*amplitude*> to 0.
- **Related Commands:** OUTP:VOLT:AMPL?
- ***RST Condition:** MIN (0)

Usage

```
OUTP:VOLT:AMPL 5,(@132:135)        set excitation voltage for channels 32 - 35
```

OUTPut:VOLTage:AMPLitude?

OUTPut:VOLTage:AMPLitude? (@<*channel*>) returns the current setting of excitation voltage for the channel specified by <*channel*>. If the channel is not on a VT1511A SCP, the query will return zero.

Comments

- The <*channel*> parameter must specify a single channel.
- **Returned Value:** Numeric, one of 0, 1, 2 , 5, or 10. C-SCPI type is **float32**.

- **Related Commands:** OUTP:VOLT:AMPL

Usage OUTP:VOLT:AMPL? (@135) *returns current setting of excitation voltage for channel 3*

The ROUTe subsystem provides a method to query the overall channel list definition for its sequence of channels.

Subsystem Syntax

```
ROUTe
    :SEQuence
        :DEFine?
        :POINts?
```

ROUTe:SEQuence:DEFine?

ROUTe:SEQuence:DEFine? *<type>* returns the sequence of channels defined in the scan list.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
type	(string)	AIN | AOUT | DIN | DOUT	none

Comments

- The channel list contents and sequence are determined primarily by channel references in the algorithms currently defined. The SENS:REF:CHANNELS and SENS:CHAN:SETTLING commands also effect the scan list contents.
- The <*type*> parameter selects which channel list will be queried:

  "AIN" selects the Analog Input channel list (this is the Scan List).
  "AOUT" selects the Analog Output channel list.
  "DIN" selects the Digital Input channel list.
  "DOUT" selects the Digital Output channel list.

- **Returned Value:** Definite Length Arbitrary Block Data format. This data return format is explained in "Arbitrary Block Program Data" on page 180 of this chapter. Each value is 2 bytes in length (the C-SCPI data type is an **int16 array**).
- ***RST Condition:** To supply the necessary time delay before Digital inputs are read, the analog input (AIN) scan list contains eight entries for channel 0 (100).This minimum delay is maintained by replacing these default channels as others are defined in algorithms. After algorithm definition, if some delay is still required, there will be repeat entries of the last channel referenced by an algorithm. The three other lists contain no channels.

Usage

```
ROUT:SEQ:DEF? AIN        query for analog input (Scan List) sequence
```

ROUTe:SEQuence:POINts?

ROUTe:SEQuence:POINts? <*type*> returns the number of channels defined in each of the four channel list types.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
type	(string)	AIN | AOUT | DIN | DOUT	none

Comments

- The channel list contents and sequence are determined by channel references in the algorithms currently defined.
- The <*type*> parameter selects which channel list will be queried:

  "AIN" selects the Analog Input list.
  "AOUT" selects the Analog Output list.
  "DIN" selects the Digital Input list.
  "DOUT" selects the Digital Output list.

- **Returned Value:** Numeric. The C_SCPI type is **int16**.
- ***RST Condition:** The Analog Input list returns +8, the others return +0.

Usage

```
ROUT:SEQ:POINTS? AIN          query for analog input channel count
```

The SAMPle subsystem provides commands to set and query the interval between channel measurements (pacing).

Subsystem Syntax

```
SAMPle
    :TIMer <interval>
    :TIMer?
```

SAMPle:TIMer

SAMPle:TIMer *<interval>* sets the time interval between channel measurements. It is used to provide additional channel settling time. See "Settling Characteristics" discussion on page 101.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
interval	numeric (float32) (string)	1.0E-5 to 16.3825E-3 | MIN | MAX	seconds

Comments

- The minimum <*interval*> is 10 μs. The resolution for <*interval*> is 2.5 μs.
- If the Sample Timer interval multiplied by the number of channels in the specified Scan List is longer than the Trigger Timer interval, at run time a "Trigger too fast" error will be generated.
- The SAMP:TIMER interval can change the effect of the SENS:CHAN:SETTLING command. ALG:CHAN:SETT specifies the number of times a channel measurement should be repeated. The total settling time per channel then is (SAMP:TIMER <*interval*>) X (<*chan_repeats*> from SENS:CHAN:SETT)
- **When Accepted:** Not while INITiated
- **Related Commands:** SENSE:CHAN:SETTLING, SAMP:TIMER?
- ***RST Condition:** Sample Timer for all Channel Lists set to 1.0E-5 seconds.

Usage

```
SAMPLE:TIMER 50E-6          Pace measurements at 50 µs intervals
```

SAMPle:TIMer?

SAMPle:TIMer? returns the sample timer interval.

Comments

- **Returned Value:** Numeric. The C-SCPI type is **float32**.

- **Related Commands:** SAMP:TIMER
- ***RST Condition:** Sample Timer set to 1.0E-5 seconds.

Usage SAMPLE:TIMER? *Check the interval between channel measurements*

Subsystem Syntax [SENSe:]

```
:CHANnel
    :SETTling <settle_time>,(@<ch_list>)
    :SETTling? (@<channel>)
DATA
    :CVTable? (@<element_list>)
        :RESet
    :FIFO
        [:ALL]?
        :COUNt?
            :HALF?
        :HALF?
        :MODE BLOCk | OVERwrite
        :MODE?
        :PART? <n_values>
        :RESet
FREQuency:APERture <gate time>,<ch_list>
FREQuency:APERture? <channel>
FUNCtion
    :CONDition (@<ch_list>)
    :CUSTom [<range>,](@<ch_list>)
        :REFerence [<range>,](@<ch_list>)
        :TC <type>,[<range>,](@<ch_list>)
    :FREQuency (@<ch_list>)
    :RESistance <excite_current>,[<range>,](@<ch_list>)
    :STRain
        :FBENding [<range>,](@<ch_list>)
        :FBPoisson [<range>,](@<ch_list>)
        :FPOisson [<range>,](@<ch_list>)
        :HBENding [<range>,](@<ch_list>)
        :HPOisson [<range>,](@<ch_list>)
        [:QUARter] [<range>,](@<ch_list>)
    :TEMPerature <sensor_type>,<sub_type>,[<range>,](@<ch_list>)
    :TOTalize (@<ch_list>)
    :VOLTage[:DC] [<range>,](@<ch_list>)
REFerence <sensor_type>, [<sub_type>,](@<ch_list>)
    :CHANnels (@<ref_channel>),(@<ch_list>)
    :TEMPerature <degrees_celsius>
STRain
    :EXCitation <excite_v>,(@<ch_list>)
    :EXCitation? (@<channel>)
    :GFACtor <gage_factor>,(@<ch_list>)
    :GFACtor? (@<channel>)
    :POISson <poisson_ratio>,(@<ch_list>)
    :POISson? (@<channel>)
    :UNSTrained <unstrained_v>,(@<ch_list>)
    :UNSTrained? (@<channel>)
TOTalize:RESet:MODE INIT | TRIGger,(@<ch_list>)
TOTalize:RESet:MODE? (@<channel>)
```

[SENSe:]CHANnel:SETTling

[SENSe:]CHANnel:SETTling <*num_samples*>,<*ch_list*> specifies the number of measurement samples to make on channels in <*ch_list*>. SENS:CHAN:SETTLING is used to provide additional settling time only to selected channels that might need it. See the "Settling Characteristics" discussion on page 101.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
settle_time	numeric (int16)	1 to 64	none
ch_list	string	100 - 163	none

Comments

- SENS:CHAN:SETTLING causes each channel specified in <*ch_list*> that is also referenced in an algorithm to appear <*num_samples*> times in the analog input Scan List. Channels that do not appear in any SENS:CHAN:SETT command will be entered into the scan list only once when referenced in an algorithm.
- Since the scan list is limited to 64 entries, an error will be generated if the number of channels referenced in algorithms plus the additional entries from any SENS:CHAN:SETTLING commands that coincide with algorithm referenced channels exceeds 64.
- The SAMPLE:TIMER command can change the effect of the SENS:CHAN:SETTLING command since SAMPLE:TIMER changes the amount of time for each measurement sample.
- **When Accepted:** Not while INITiated
- **Related Commands:** [SENSe:]CHANnel:SETTling?, SAMPLE:TIMER
- ***RST Condition:** SENS:CHAN:SETTLING 1,(@100:163)

Usage

```
SENS:CHAN:SETT 4,(@144,156)        settle channels 44 and 56 for 4
                                   measurement periods
```

[SENSe:]CHANnel:SETTling?

[SENSe:]CHANnel:SETTling? <*channel*> returns the current number of samples to make on <*channel*>.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
channel	string	100 - 163	none

Comments

- The <*channel*> parameter must specify a single channel.
- **Related Commands**: SENS:CHAN:SETT, SAMP:TIMER?
- ***RST Condition:** will return 1 for all channels.
- **Returned Value:** returns numeric number of samples, The type is **int16**.

[SENSe:]DATA:CVTable?

[SENSe:]DATA:CVTable? (@<*element_list*>) returns from the Current Value Table the most recent values stored by algorithms.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
element_list	channel list	10 - 511	none

Comments

- [SENSe:]DATA:CVTable? (@<*element_list*>) allows the latest values of internal algorithm variables to be “viewed” while algorithms are executing.
- The Current Value Table is an area in memory that can contain as many as 502 32-bit floating point values. Algorithms can copy any of their variable values into these CVT elements while they execute. The algorithm statements to put data into the CVT are:

  writecvt(<*expr*>, <*element_number*>) and
  writeboth(<*expr*>, <*element_number*>). See Chapters 3 and 4 for usage.
- Elements 0 through 9 are not accessible. They are used internally by the DSP.
- The format of values returned is set using the FORMat[:DATA] command
- **Returned Value:** ASCII values are returned in the form ±1.234567E±123. For example 13.325 volts would be +1.3325000E+001. Each value is followed by a comma (,). A line feed (LF) and End-Or-Identify (EOI) follow the last value. The C-SCPI data type is a **string array**.

  REAL 32, REAL 64 and PACK 64, values are returned in the IEEE-488.2-1987 Definite Length Arbitrary Block Data format. This data return format is explained

in “Arbitrary Block Program Data” on page 180 of this chapter. For REAL 32, each value is 4 bytes in length (the C-SCPI data type is a **float32 array**). For REAL 64 and PACK 64, each value is 8 bytes in length (the C-SCPI data type is a **float64 array**).

NOTE After *RST/Power-on, each element in the CVT contains the IEEE-754 value “Not-a-number” (NaN). Elements specified in the DATA:CVT? command that have not been written to be an algorithm will return the value 9.91E37.

- ***RST Condition:** All elements of CVT contains IEEE-754 “Not a Number”.
- **Related Commands:** SENS:DATA:CVT:RES, FORMAT:DATA

Usage

SENS:DATA:CVT? (@10:13)	*Return algorithm values stored in CVT elements 10 through 13*
DATA:CVT? (@10,13)	*Return only element 10 and element 13*
DATA:CVT? (@330:337,350,360)	*Return algorithm values from elements 330-337, 350 and 360*

[SENSe:]DATA:CVTable:RESet

[SENSe:]DATA:CVTable:RESet sets all 502 Current Value Table entries to the IEEE-754 “Not-a-number.”

Comments

- The value of NaN is +9.910000E+037 (ASCII).
- Executing DATA:CVT:RES while the module is INITiated will generate an error 3000, “Illegal while initiated.”
- **When Accepted:** Not while INITiated
- **Related Commands:** SENSE:DATA:CVT?
- ***RST Condition:** SENSE:DATA:CVT:RESET

Usage

SENSE:DATA:CVT:RESET	*Clear the Current Value Table*

[SENSe:]DATA:FIFO[:ALL]?

[SENSe:]DATA:FIFO[:ALL]? returns all values remaining in the FIFO buffer until all measurements are complete or until the number of values returned exceeds FIFO buffer size (65,024).

Comments

- DATA:FIFO? may be used to acquire all values (even while they are being made) into a single large buffer or can be used after one or more DATA:FIFO:HALF? commands to return the remaining values from the FIFO.

- The format of values returned is set using the FORMat[:DATA] command.
- **Returned Value:** ASCII values are returned in the form ±1.234567E±123. For example 13.325 volts would be +1.3325000E+001. Each value is followed by a comma (,). A line feed (LF) and End-Or-Identify (EOI) follow the last value. The C-SCPI data type is a **string array**.

  REAL 32, REAL 64 and PACK 64, values are returned in the IEEE-488.2-1987 Indefinite Length Arbitrary Block Data format. This data return format is explained in "Arbitrary Block Program Data" on page 180 of this chapter. For REAL 32, each value is 4 bytes in length (the C-SCPI data type is a **float32 array**). For REAL 64 and PACK 64, each value is 8 bytes in length (the C-SCPI data type is a **float64 array**).

NOTE Algorithm values which are a positive overvoltage return IEEE +INF and a negative overvoltage return IEEE -INF (see table on page 230 for actual values for each data format).

- **Related Commands:** SENSE:DATA:FIFO:HALF?, FORMAT:DATA
- ***RST Condition:** FIFO is empty

Usage

```
DATA:FIFO?                    return all FIFO values until measurements complete
                              and FIFO empty
```

Command Sequence

```
set up scan lists and trigger
SENSE:DATA:FIFO:ALL?
now execute read statement    read statement does not complete until triggered
                              measurements are complete and FIFO is empty
```

[SENSe:]DATA:FIFO:COUNt?

[SENSe:]DATA:FIFO:COUNt? returns the number of values currently in the FIFO buffer.

Comments

- DATA:FIFO:COUNT? is used to determine the number of values to acquire with the DATA:FIFO:PART? command.
- **Returned Value:** Numeric 0 through 65,024. The C-SCPI type is **int32**.
- **Related Commands:** DATA:FIFO:PART?
- ***RST Condition:** FIFO empty

Usage

```
DATA:FIFO:COUNT?              Check the number of values in the FIFO buffer
```

[SENSe:]DATA:FIFO:COUNt:HALF?

[SENSe:]DATA:FIFO:COUNt:HALF? returns a 1 if the FIFO is at least half full (contains at least 32,768 values) or 0 if FIFO is less than half-full.

Comments

- DATA:FIFO:COUNT:HALF? is used as a fast method to poll the FIFO for the half-full condition.
- **Returned Value:** Numeric 1 or 0. The C-SCPI type is **int16**.
- **Related Commands:** DATA:FIFO:HALF?
- ***RST Condition:** FIFO empty

Command Sequence

```
DATA:FIFO:COUNT:HALF?          poll FIFO for half-full status
DATA:FIFO:HALF?                returns 32768 values
```

[SENSe:]DATA:FIFO:HALF?

[SENSe:]DATA:FIFO:HALF? returns 32,768 values if the FIFO buffer is at least half-full. This command provides a fast means of acquiring blocks of values from the buffer.

Comments

- For acquiring data from continuous algorithm executions, an application needs to execute a DATA:FIFO:HALF? command and a read statement often enough to keep up with the rate that values are being sent to the FIFO.
- Use the DATA:FIFO:ALL? command to acquire the values remaining in the FIFO buffer after the ABORT command has stopped execution.
- The format of values returned is set using the FORMat[:DATA] command.
- **Returned Value:** ASCII values are returned in the form ±1.234567E±123. For example 13.325 volts would be +1.3325000E+001. Each value is followed by a comma (,). A line feed (LF) and End-Or-Identify (EOI) follow the last value. The C-SCPI data type is a **string array**.

  REAL 32, REAL 64 and PACK 64, values are returned in the IEEE-488.2-1987 Definite Length Arbitrary Block Data format. This data return format is explained in “Arbitrary Block Program Data” on page 180 of this chapter. For REAL 32, each value is 4 bytes in length (the C-SCPI data type is a **float32 array**). For REAL 64 and PACK 64, each value is 8 bytes in length (the C-SCPI data type is a **float64 array**).

NOTE Algorithm values which are a positive overvoltage return IEEE +INF and a negative overvoltage return IEEE -INF (see table on page 230 for actual values for each data format).

- **Related Commands:** DATA:FIFO:COUNT:HALF?
- ***RST Condition:** FIFO buffer is empty

Command Sequence

```
DATA:FIFO:COUNT:HALF?        poll FIFO for half-full status
DATA:FIFO:HALF?              returns 32768 values
```

[SENSe:]DATA:FIFO:MODE

[SENSe:]DATA:FIFO:MODE ***<mode>*** sets the mode of operation for the FIFO buffer.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
mode	discrete (string)	BLOCk | OVERwrite	none

Comments

- In BLOCk(ing) mode, if the FIFO becomes full and measurements are still being made, the new values are discarded.
- OVERwrite mode is used to record the latest 65,024 values. The module must be halted (ABORT sent) before attempting to read the FIFO. In OVERwrite Mode, if the FIFO becomes full and measurements are still being made, new values overwrite the oldest values.
- In both modes Error 3021, “FIFO Overflow” is generated to indicate that measurements have been lost.
- **When Accepted:** Not while INITiated
- **Related Commands:** SENSE:DATA:FIFO:MODE?, SENSE:DATA:FIFO:ALL?, SENSE:DATA:FIFO:HALF?, SENSE:DATA:FIFO:PART?, SENSE:DATA:FIFO:COUNT?
- ***RST Condition:** SENSE:DATA:FIFO:MODE BLOCk

Usage

```
SENSE:DATA:FIFO:MODE  OVERWRITE   Set FIFO to overwrite mode
DATA:FIFO:MODE  BLOCK             Set FIFO to block mode
```

[SENSe:]DATA:FIFO:MODE?

[SENSe:]DATA:FIFO:MODE? returns the currently set FIFO mode.

Comments

- **Returned Value:** String value either BLOCK or OVERWRITE. The C-SCPI type is **string**.
- **Related Commands:** SENSE:DATA:FIFO:MODE

Usage DATA:FIFO:MODE? *Enter statement returns either BLOCK or OVERWRITE*

[SENSe:]DATA:FIFO:PART?

[SENSe:]DATA:FIFO:PART? *<n_values>* returns *n_values* from the FIFO buffer.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
n_values	numeric (int32)	1 - 2,147,483,647	none

Comments

- Use the DATA:FIFO:COUNT? command to determine the number of values in the FIFO buffer.
- The format of values returned is set using the FORMat[:DATA] command.
- **Returned Value:** ASCII values are returned in the form ±1.234567E±123. For example 13.325 volts would be +1.3325000E+001. Each value is followed by a comma (,). A line feed (LF) and End-Or-Identify (EOI) follow the last value. The C-SCPI data type is a **string array**.

  REAL 32, REAL 64 and PACK 64, values are returned in the IEEE-488.2-1987 Definite Length Arbitrary Block Data format. This data return format is explained in "Arbitrary Block Program Data" on page 180 of this chapter. For REAL 32, each value is 4 bytes in length (the C-SCPI data type is a **float32 array**). For REAL 64 and PACK 64, each value is 8 bytes in length (the C-SCPI data type is a **float64 array**).

NOTE Algorithm values which are a positive overvoltage return IEEE +INF and a negative overvoltage return IEEE -INF (see table on page 230 for actual values for each data format).

- **Related Commands:** DATA:FIFO:COUNT?
- ***RST Condition:** FIFO buffer empty

Usage DATA:FIFO:PART? 256 *return 256 values from FIFO*

[SENSe:]DATA:FIFO:RESet

[SENSe:]DATA:FIFO:RESet clears the FIFO of values. The FIFO counter is reset to 0.

Comments

- **When Accepted:** Not while INITiated
- **Related Commands:** SENSE:DATA:FIFO…
- ***RST Condition:** SENSE:DATA:FIFO:RESET

Usage

```
SENSE:DATA:FIFO:RESET          Clear the FIFO
```

[SENSe:]FREQuency:APERture

[SENSe:]FREQuency:APERture <*gate_time*>,<*ch_list*> sets the gate time for frequency measurement. The gate time is the time period that the SCP will allow for counting signal transitions in order to calculate frequency.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
gate_time	numeric (float32)	0.001 to 1 (0.001 resolution)	seconds
ch_list	string	132 - 163	none

Comments

- If the channels specified are on an SCP that doesn't support this function, an error will be generated. See the SCP's User's Manual for its capabilities.
- **Related Commands**: SENSe:FUNCtion:FREQuency
- ***RST Condition:** 0.001 seconds

Usage

```
SENS:FREQ:APER .01,(@148)          set channel 48 aperture to 10 ms
```

[SENSe:]FREQuency:APERture?

[SENSe:]FREQuency:APERture? <*ch_list*> returns the frequency counting gate time.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
channel	string	132 - 163	none

Comments

- If the channels specified are on an SCP that doesn't support this function, an error will be generated. See the SCP's User's Manual for its capabilities.
- **Related Commands:** SENSe:FREQuency:APERture
- **Returned Value:** returns numeric gate time in seconds, The type is **float32**.

[SENSe:]FUNCtion:CONDition

[SENSe:]FUNCtion:CONDition <*ch_list*> sets the SENSe function to input the digital state for channels in <*ch_list*>. Also configures digital SCP channels as inputs (this is the *RST condition for all digital I/O channels).

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
ch_list	string	132 - 163	none

Comments

- The VT1533A SCP senses eight digital bits on each channel specified by this command. The VT1534A SCP senses one digital bit on each channel specified by this command.
- If the channels specified are not on a digital SCP, an error will be generated.
- Use the INPut:POLarity command to set input logical sense.
- **Related Commands:** INPut:POLarity
- ***RST Condition:** SENS:FUNC:COND and INP:POL NORM for all digital SCP channels.

Usage

To set first four channels of a VT1534A in SCP position 6 and second 8 bits of VT1533A at SCP position 7 to digital inputs send:

```
SENS:FUNC:COND (@148:151,156)
```

[SENSe:]FUNCtion:CUSTom

[SENSe:]FUNCtion:CUSTom [<*range*>,](@<*ch_list*>) links channels with the custom Engineering Unit Conversion table loaded with the DIAG:CUST:LINEAR or DIAG:CUST:PIECE commands. Contact a VXI Technology System Engineer for more information on Custom Engineering Unit Conversion for specific applications.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
range	numeric (float32)	see first comment	V dc
ch_list	channel list (string)	100 - 163	none

Comments

- The <*range*> parameter: The VT1419A has five ranges: 0.0625 V dc, 0.25 V dc, 1 V dc, 4 V dc, and 16 V dc. To select a range, simply specify the range value (for example, 4 selects the 4 V dc range). If a value is specified larger than one of the first four ranges, the VT1419A selects the next higher range (for example, 4.1 selects the 16 V dc range). Specifying a value larger than 16 causes an error -222 "Data out of range." Specifying 0 selects the lowest range (0.0625 V dc). Specifying AUTO selects auto range. The default range (no range parameter specified) is auto range.
- If using amplifier SCPs, set them first and keep their settings in mind when specifying a range setting. For instance, if the expected signal voltage is to be approximately 0.1 V dc and the amplifier SCP for that channel has a gain of 8, <*range*> must be set no lower than 1 V dc or an input out-of-range condition will exist.
- If an A/D reading is greater than the <*table_range*> specified with DIAG:CUSTOM:PIEC, an overrange condition will occur.
- If no custom table has been loaded for the channels specified with SENS:FUNC:CUST, an error will be generated when an INIT command is given.
- **When Accepted:** Not while INITiated
- **Related Commands:** DIAG:CUST:…
- ***RST Condition:** all custom EU tables erased

Usage

```
program must put table constants into array table_block
DIAG:CUST:LIN 1,table_block,(@116:123)  send table to VT1419A for chs 16-23
SENS:FUNC:CUST 1,(@116:123)             link custom EU with chs 16-23
INITiate then TRIGger module
```

[SENSe:]FUNCtion:CUSTom:REFerence

[SENSe:]FUNCtion:CUSTom:REFerence [<*range*>,](@<*ch_list*>) links channels with the custom Engineering Unit Conversion table loaded with the DIAG:CUST:PIECE command. Measurements from a channel linked with SENS:FUNC:CUST:REF will result in a temperature that is sent to the Reference Temperature Register. This command is used to measure the temperature of an isothermal reference panel using custom characterized RTDs or thermistors. Contact a VXI Technology System Engineer for more information on Custom Engineering Unit Conversion for specific applications.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
range	numeric (float32)	see comments	V dc
ch_list	channel list (string)	100 - 163	none

Comments

- See “Linking Input Channels to EU Conversion” (page 57) for more information.
- The <*range*> parameter: The VT1419A has five ranges: 0.0625 V dc, 0.25 V dc, 1 V dc, 4 V dc, and 16 V dc. To select a range, simply specify the range value (for example, 4 selects the 4 V dc range).
- If a value is specified larger than one of the first four ranges, the VT1419A selects the next higher range (for example, 4.1 selects the 16 V dc range). Specifying a value larger than 16 generates an error. Specifying 0 selects the lowest range (0.0625 V dc). Specifying AUTO selects auto range. The default range (no range parameter specified) is auto range.
- If using amplifier SCPs, set them first and keep their settings in mind when specifying a range setting. For instance, if the expected signal voltage is to be approximately 0.1 V dc and the amplifier SCP for that channel has a gain of 8, <*range*> must be set no lower than 1 V dc or an input out-of-range condition will exist.
- The *CAL? command calibrates temperature channels based on Sense Amplifier SCP setup at the time of execution. If SCP settings are changed, those channels are no longer calibrated. *CAL? must be executed again.
- **Related Commands:** DIAG:CUST:PIEC, SENS:FUNC:TEMP, SENS:FUNC:CUST:TC, *CAL?
- ***RST Condition:** all custom EU tables erased

Usage

A program must put table constants into array< *table_block*>

```
DIAG:CUST:PIEC 1,table_block,(@108)      send characterized reference transducer
                                         table for use by channel 8
SENS:FUNC:CUST:REF .25,(@108)            link custom ref temp EU with ch 8
include this channel in a scan list with thermocouple channels (REF channel first)
INITiate then TRIGger module
```

[SENSe:]FUNCtion:CUSTom:TCouple

[SENSe:]FUNCtion:CUSTom:TCouple ***<type>*****,[*****<range>*****,](@*****<ch_list>*****)** links channels with the custom Engineering Unit Conversion table loaded with the DIAG:CUST:PIECE command. The table is assumed to be for a thermocouple and the <*type*> parameter will specify the built-in compensation voltage table to be used for reference junction temperature compensation. SENS:FUNC:CUST:TC allows an EU table to be used that is custom matched to thermocouple wire characterized. Contact a VXI Technology System Engineer for more information on Custom Engineering Unit Conversion for specific applications.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
type	discrete (string)	E | EEXT | J | K | N | R | S | T	none
range	numeric (float32)	see comments	V dc
ch_list	channel list (string)	100 - 163	none

Comments

- See “Linking Input Channels to EU Conversion” on page 57 for more information.
- The <*range*> parameter: The VT1419A has five ranges: 0.0625 V dc, 0.25 V dc, 1 V dc, 4 V dc, and 16 V dc. To select a range, simply specify the range value (for example, 4 selects the 4 V dc range). If a value is specified larger than one of the first four ranges, the VT1419A selects the next higher range (for example, 4.1 selects the 16 V dc range). Specifying a value larger than 16 generates an error. Specifying 0 selects the lowest range (0.0625 V dc). Specifying AUTO selects auto range. The default range (no range parameter specified) is auto range.
- If using amplifier SCPs, set them first and keep their settings in mind when specifying a range setting. For instance, if the expected signal voltage is to be approximately 0.1 V dc and the amplifier SCP for that channel has a gain of 8, <*range*> must be set no lower than 1 V dc or an input out-of-range condition will exist.
- The <*sub_type*> EEXTended applies to E type thermocouples at 800 °C and above.
- The *CAL? command calibrates temperature channels based on Sense Amplifier SCP setup at the time of execution. If SCP settings are changed, those channels are no longer calibrated. *CAL? must be executed again.
- **Related Commands:** DIAG:CUST:PIEC, *CAL?,SENS:REF and SENS:REF:TEMP
- ***RST Condition:** all custom EU tables erased

Usage

```
program must put table constants into array table_block
DIAG:CUST:PIEC 1,table_block,(@100:107)      send characterized thermocouple table for use by channels 0-7
SENS:FUNC:CUST:TC N,.25,(@100:107)           link custom thermocouple EU with chs 0-7, use reference temperature compensation for N type wire.
SENSE:REF  RTD,92,(@120)                     designate a channel to measure the reference junction temperature
include these channels in a scan list (REF channel first)
INITiate then TRIGger module
```

[SENSe:]FUNCtion:FREQuency

[SENSe:]FUNCtion:FREQuency <*ch_list*> sets the SENSe function to frequency for channels in <*ch_list*>. Also configures the channels specified as digital inputs.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
ch_list	string	132 - 163	none

Comments

- If the channels specified are on an SCP that doesn't support this function, an error will be generated. See the SCP's User's Manual for its capabilities.
- Use the SENSe:FREQuency:APERture command to set the gate time for the frequency measurement.
- **Related commands:** SENS:FREQ:APER
- ***RST Condition:** SENS:FUNC:COND and INP:POL NORM for all digital SCP channels

Usage

```
SENS:FUNC:FREQ  (@144)      set channel 44's sense function to frequency
```

[SENSe:]FUNCtion:RESistance

[SENSe:]FUNCtion:RESistance <*excite_current*>,[<*range*>,](@<*ch_list*>) links the EU conversion type for resistance and range with the channels specified by <*ch_list*>.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
excite_current	discrete(string)	30E-6 | 488E-6 | MIN | MAX	Amps
range	numeric (float32)	see first comment	V dc
ch_list	channel list (string)	100 - 163	none

Comments

- The <*range*> parameter: The VT1419A has five ranges: 0.0625 V dc, 0.25 V dc, 1 V dc, 4 V dc, and 16 V dc. To select a range, simply specify the range value

(for example, 4 selects the 4 V dc range). If a value is specified larger than one of the first four ranges, the VT1419A selects the next higher range (for example, 4.1 selects the 16 V dc range). Specifying a value larger than 16 causes an error. Specifying 0 selects the lowest range (0.0625 V dc). Specifying AUTO selects auto range. The default range (no range parameter specified) is auto range.

- If using amplifier SCPs, set them first and keep their settings in mind when specifying a range setting. For instance, if the expected signal voltage is to be approximately 0.1 V dc and the amplifier SCP for that channel has a gain of 8, <*range*> must be set no lower than 1 V dc or an input out-of-range condition will exist.
- Resistance measurements require the use of Current Source Signal Conditioning Plug-Ons.
- The <*excite_current*> parameter (excitation current) does not control the current applied to the channel to be measured. The <*excite_current*> parameter only passes the setting of the SCP supplying current to channel to be measured. The current must have already been set using the OUTPUT:CURRENT:AMPL command. The choices for <*excite_current*> are 30E-6 (or MIN) and 488E-6 (or MAX). The <*excite_current*> parameter may be specified in milliamps (ma) and microamps (ua).
- The *CAL? command calibrates resistance channels based on Current Source SCP and Sense Amplifier SCP setup at the time of execution. If SCP settings are changed, those channels are no longer calibrated. *CAL? must be executed again.
- See “Linking Input Channels to EU Conversion” on page 57 for more information.
- **When Accepted:** Not while INITiated
- **Related Commands:** OUTP:CURR, *CAL?
- ***RST Condition:** SENSE:FUNC:VOLT (@100:163)

Usage FUNC:RES 30ua,(@100,105,107) *Set channels 0, 5, and 7 to convert voltage to resistance assuming current source set to 30 µA use auto-range (default)*

[SENSe:]FUNCtion:STRain:FBENding
:FBPoisson
:FPOisson
:HBENding
:HPOisson
[:QUARter]

Note on Syntax: Although the strain function is comprised of six separate SCPI commands, the only difference between them is the bridge type they specify to the strain EU conversion algorithm.

- **[SENSe:]FUNCtion:STRain:<*bridge_type*> [<*range*>,](@<*ch_list*>)** links the strain EU conversion with the channels specified by *ch_list* to measure the bridge voltage. See "Linking Input Channels to EU Conversion" on page 57 for more information.

<*bridge_type*> is not a parameter but is part of the command syntax. The following table relates the command syntax to bridge type. See the user's manual for the optional Strain SCP for bridge schematics and field wiring information.

Command	Bridge Type
:FBENding	Full Bending Bridge
:FBPoisson	Full Bending Poisson Bridge
:FPOisson	Full Poisson Bridge
:HBENding	Half Bending Bridge
:HPOisson	Half Poisson Bridge
[:QUARter]	Quarter Bridge (default)

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
range	numeric (flt32)	see comments	V dc
ch_list	channel list (string)	1320 - 163	none

Comments

- Strain measurements require the use of Bridge Completion Signal Conditioning Plug-Ons.
- Bridge Completion SCPs provide the strain measurement bridges and their excitation voltage sources. <*ch_list*> specifies the voltage sensing channels that are to measure the bridge outputs. Measuring channels on a Bridge Completion SCP only returns that SCP's excitation source voltage.
- The <*range*> parameter: The VT1419A has five ranges: 0.0625 V dc, 0.25 V dc, 1 V dc, 4 V dc, and 16 V dc. To select a range, simply specify the range value (for example, 4 selects the 4 V dc range). If a value is specified larger than one of the first four ranges, the VT1419A selects the next higher range (for example, 4.1 selects the 16 V dc range). Specifying a value larger than 16 generates an error. Specifying 0 selects the lowest range (0.0625 V dc). Specifying AUTO selects auto range. The default range (no range parameter specified) is auto range.
- If using amplifier SCPs, set them first and keep their settings in mind when specifying a range setting. For instance, if the expected signal voltage is to be approximately 0.1 V dc and the amplifier SCP for that channel has a gain of 8, <*range*> must be set no lower than 1 V dc or an input out-of-range condition will exist.
- The channel calibration command (*CAL?) calibrates the excitation voltage source on each Bridge Completion SCP.

- **When Accepted:** Not while INITiated
- **Related Commands:** *CAL?, [SENSE:]STRAIN…
- ***RST Condition:** SENSE:FUNC:VOLT 0,(@100:163)

Usage

```
FUNC:STRAIN  1,(@100:,105,107)        quarter bridge sensed at channels 0, 5 and 7
```

[SENSe:]FUNCtion:TEMPerature

[SENSe:]FUNCtion:TEMPerature ***<type>,<sub_type>,[<range>,](@<ch_list>)*** links channels to an EU conversion for temperature based on the sensor specified in <*type*> and <*sub_type*>. **Not for sensing thermocouple reference temperature (for that, use the SENS:REF *<type>,<sub_type>,(@<channel>)* command)**.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
type	discrete (string)	RTD | THERmistor | TCouple	none
sub_type	numeric (float32) numeric (float32) discrete (string)	for RTD use 85 | 92 for THER use 2250 | 5000 | 10000 for TC use CUSTom | E | EEXT | J | K | N | R | S | T	none ohms none
range	numeric (float32)	see comments	V dc
ch_list	channel list (string)	100 - 163	none

Comments

- Resistance temperature measurements (RTDs and THERmistors) require the use of Current Source Signal Conditioning Plug-Ons. The following table shows the Current Source setting that must be used for the following RTDs and Thermistors:

Required Current Amplitude	Temperature Sensor Types and Subtypes
MAX (488 μA) MIN (30 μA)	for RTD and THER,2250 for THER,5000 and THER,10000

- The <*range*> parameter: The VT1419A has five ranges: 0.0625 V dc, 0.25 V dc, 1 V dc, 4 V dc, and 16 V dc. To select a range, simply specify the range value (for example, 4 selects the 4 V dc range). If a value is specified larger than one of the first four ranges, the VT1419A selects the next higher range (for example, 4.1 selects the 16 V dc range). Specifying a value larger than 16 generates an error. Specifying 0 selects the lowest range (0.0625 V dc). Specifying AUTO selects auto range. The default range (no range parameter specified) is auto range.
- If using amplifier SCPs, set them first and keep their settings in mind when specifying a range setting. For instance, if expected signal voltage is to be approximately 0.1 V dc and the amplifier SCP for that channel has a gain of 8, <*range*> must be set no lower than 1 V dc or an input out-of-range condition will exist.

- The <*sub_type*> parameter: values of 85 and 92 differentiate between 100 Ω (@ 0 °C) RTDs with temperature coefficients of 0.00385 and and 0.00392 ohm/ohm/°C respectively. The <*sub_type*> values of 2250, 5000, and 10000 refer to thermistors that match the Omega 44000 series temperature response curve. These 44000 series thermistors are selected to match the curve within 0.1 or 0.2 °C. For thermistors, <*sub_type*> may be specified in kΩ (kohm).

  The <*sub_type*> EEXTended applies to E type thermocouples at 800 °C and above.

  CUSTom is pre-defined as Type K, with no reference junction compensation (reference junction assumed to be at 0 °C).

- The *CAL? command calibrates temperature channels based on Current Source SCP and Sense Amplifier SCP setup at the time of execution. If SCP settings are changed, those channels are no longer calibrated. *CAL? must be executed again.

- See “Linking Input Channels to EU Conversion” on page 57 for more information.

- **When Accepted:** Not while INITiated

- **Related Commands:** *CAL?, OUTP:CURR (for RTDs and Thermistors), SENS:REF and SENS:REF:TEMP (for Thermocouples)

- ***RST Condition:** SENSE:FUNC:VOLT AUTO,(@100:163)

Usage

Link two channels to the K type thermocouple temperature conversion

```
SENS:FUNC:TEMP  TCOUPLE,K,(@101,102)
```

Link channel 0 to measure reference temperature using 5k thermistor

```
SENS:REF  THER,5000,(@100)
```

[SENSe:]FUNCtion:TOTalize

[SENSe:]FUNCtion:TOTalize <*ch_list*> sets the SENSe function to TOTalize for channels in <*ch_list*>.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
ch_list	string	132 - 163	none

Comments

- The totalize function counts rising edges of digital transitions at Frequency/Totalize SCP channels. The counter is 24 bits wide and can count up to 16,777,215.

- The SENS:TOT:RESET:MODE command controls which events will reset the counter.

- If the channels specified are not on a Frequency/Totalize SCP, an error will be generated.
- **Related Commands:** SENS:TOT:RESET:MODE, INPUT:POLARITY
- ***RST Condition:** SENS:FUNC:COND and INP:POL NORM for all digital SCP channels.

Usage

```
SENS:FUNC:TOT  (@148)          channel 48 is a totalizer
```

[SENSe:]FUNCtion:VOLTage[:DC]

[SENSe:]FUNCtion:VOLTage[:DC] [<*range*>,](@<*ch_list*>) links the specified channels to return dc voltage.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
range	numeric (float32)	see comments	V dc
ch_list	channel list (string)	100 - 163	none

Comments

- The <*range*> parameter: The VT1419A has five ranges: 0.0625 V dc, 0.25 V dc, 1 V dc, 4 V dc and 16 V dc. To select a range, simply specify the range value (for example, 4 selects the 4 V dc range). If a value is specified larger than one of the first four ranges, the VT1419A selects the next higher range (for example, 4.1 selects the 16 V dc range). Specifying a value larger than 16 causes an error. Specifying 0 selects the lowest range (0.0625 V dc). Specifying AUTO selects auto range. The default range (no range parameter specified) is auto range.
- If using amplifier SCPs, set them first and keep their settings in mind when specifying a range setting. For instance, if expected signal voltage is to be approximately 0.1 V dc and the amplifier SCP for that channel has a gain of 8, <*range*> must be set no lower than 1V dc or an input out-of-range condition will exist.
- The *CAL? command calibrates channels based on Sense Amplifier SCP setup at the time of execution. If SCP settings are changed, those channels are no longer calibrated. *CAL? must be executed again.
- See “Linking Input Channels to EU Conversion” on page 57 for more information.
- **When Accepted:** Not while INITiated
- **Related Commands:** *CAL?, INPUT:GAIN…
- ***RST Condition:** SENSE:FUNC:VOLT AUTO,(@100:163)

Usage FUNC:VOLT (@140:163) *Channels 40 - 63 measure voltage in auto-range (defaulted)*

[SENSe:]REFerence

[SENSe:]REFerence ***<type>,<sub_type>,[<range>,](@<ch_list>)*** links channel in <*ch_list*> to the reference junction temperature EU conversion based on <*type*> and <*sub_type*>. When scanned, the resultant value is stored in the Reference Temperature Register and by default the FIFO and CVT. This is a resistance temperature measurement and uses the on-board 122 μA current source.

NOTE The reference junction temperature value generated by scanning the reference channel is stored in the Reference Temperature Register. This reference temperature is used to compensate all subsequent thermocouple measurements until the register is overwritten by another reference measurement or by specifying a constant reference temperature with the SENSE:REF:TEMP command. If used, the reference junction channel must be scanned before any thermocouple channels. Use the SENSE:REF:CHANNELS command to place the reference measuring channel into the scan list ahead of the thermocouple measuring channels.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
type	discrete (string)	THERmistor | RTD | CUSTom	none
sub_type	numeric (float32) numeric (float32)	for THER use 5000 for RTD use 85 | 92 for CUSTom use 1	ohm none none
range	numeric (float32)	see comments	V dc
ch_list	channel list (string)	100 - 163	none

Comments

- See “Linking Input Channels to EU Conversion” on page 57 for more information.
- The <*range*> parameter: The VT1419A has five ranges: 0.0625 V dc, 0.25 V dc, 1 V dc, 4 V dc, and 16 V dc. To select a range, simply specify the range value (for example, 4 selects the 4 V dc range). If a value is specified larger than one of the first four ranges, the VT1419A selects the next higher range (for example, 4.1 selects the 16 V dc range). Specifying a value larger than 16 causes an error. Specifying 0 selects the lowest range (0.0625 V dc). Specifying AUTO selects auto range. The default range (no range parameter specified) is auto range.
- If using amplifier SCPs, set them first and keep their settings in mind when specifying a range setting. For instance, if expected signal voltage is to be approximately 0.1 V dc and the amplifier SCP for that channel has a gain of 8, <*range*> must be set no lower than 1 V dc or an input out-of-range condition will exist.

- The <*type*> parameter specifies the sensor type that will be used to determine the temperature of the isothermal reference panel. <*type*> CUSTom is pre-defined as Type E with 0 °C reference junction temp and is not re-defineable.
- For <*type*> THERmistor, the **<***sub_type*> parameter may be specified in ohms or kohm.
- The *CAL? command calibrates resistance channels based on Current Source SCP and Sense Amplifier SCP setup at the time of execution. If SCP settings are changed, those channels are no longer calibrated. *CAL? must be executed again.
- **Related Commands:** SENSE:FUNC:TEMP
- ***RST Condition:** Reference temperature is 0 °C

Usage

```
                    sense the reference temperature on channel 20 using an RTD
SENSE:REF  RTD,92,(@120)
```

[SENSe:]REFerence:CHANnels

[SENSe:]REFerence:CHANnels (@*<ref_channel>*),(@*<ch_list>*) causes channel specified by <*ref_channel*> to appear in the scan list just before the channel(s) specified by <*ch_list*>. This command is used to include the thermocouple reference temperature channel in the scan list before other thermocouple channels are measured.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
ref_channel	channel list (string)	100 - 163	none
ch_list	channel list (string)	100 - 163	none

Comments

- Use SENS:FUNC:TEMP to configure channels to measure thermocouples. Then use SENS:REF to configure one or more channels to measure an isothermal reference temperature. Now use SENS:REF:CHAN to group the reference channel with its thermocouple measurement channels in the scan list.
- If thermocouple measurements are made through more than one isothermal reference panel, set up a reference channel for each. Execute the SENS:REF:CHAN command for each reference/measurement channel group.
- **Related commands:** SENS:FUNC:TEMP, SENS:REF
- ***RST Condition:** Scan List contains no channel references.

Usage

```
SENS:FUNC:TEMP  TC,E,.0625,(@108:115)E type TCs on channels 8 through 15
SENS:REF  THER,5000,1,(@106)          Reference ch is thermistor at channel 6
SENS:REF  RTD,85,.25,(@107)           Reference ch is RTD at channel 7
SENS:REF:CHAN (@106),(@108:111)       Thermistor measured before chs 8 - 11
SENS:REF:CHAN (@107),(@112:115)       RTD measured before chs 12 - 15
```

[SENSe:]REFerence:TEMPerature

[SENSe:]REFerence:TEMPerature ***<degrees_c>*** stores a fixed reference junction temperature in the Reference Temperature Register. Use when the thermocouple reference junction is kept at a controlled temperature.

NOTE This reference temperature is used to compensate all subsequent thermocouple measurements until the register is overwritten by another SENSE:REF:TEMP value or by scanning a channel linked with the SENSE:REFERENCE command. If used, SENS:REF:TEMP must be executed before scanning any thermocouple channels.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
degrees_c	numeric (float32)	-126 to +126	none

Comments

- This command is used to specify to the VT1419A the temperature of a controlled temperature thermocouple reference junction.
- **When Accepted:** Not while INITiated
- **Related Commands:** FUNC:TEMP TC…
- ***RST Condition:** Reference temperature is 0 °C

Usage

```
SENSE:REF:TEMP  40
```

subsequent thermocouple conversion will assume compensation junction at 40 °C

[SENSe:]STRain:EXCitation

[SENSe:]STRain:EXCitation <*excite_v*>,(@<*ch_list*>) specifies the excitation voltage value to be used to convert strain bridge readings for the channels specified by <*ch_list*>. This command does not control the output voltage of any source.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
excite_v	numeric (flt32)	0.01 - 99	volts
ch_list	channel list (string)	100 - 163	none

Comments

- The <*ch_list*> parameter must specify the channel used to sense the bridge voltage, **not** the channel position on a Bridge Completion SCP.
- **Related Commands:** SENSE:STRAIN:…, SENSE:FUNC:STRAIN…
- ***RST Condition:** 3.9 V

Usage

```
STRAIN:EXC 4,(@100:107)          set excitation voltage for channels 0 through 7
```

[SENSe:]STRain:EXCitation?

[SENSe:]STRain:EXCitation? (@*<channel>*) returns the excitation voltage value currently set for the sense channel specified by <*channel*>.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
channel	channel list (string)	100 - 163	none

Comments

- **Returned Value:** Numeric value of excitation voltage. The C-SCPI type is **flt32**.
- The <*channel*> parameter must specify a single channel only.
- **Related Commands:** STRAIN:EXCitation

Usage

```
STRAIN:EXC? (@107)               query excitation voltage for channel 7
enter statement here             returns the excitation voltage set by STR:EXC
```

[SENSe:]STRain:GFACtor

[SENSe:]STRain:GFACtor *<gage_factor>*,(@*<ch_list>*) specifies the gage factor to be used to convert strain bridge readings for the channels specified by <*ch_list*>.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
gage_factor	numeric (flt32)	1 - 5	none
ch_list	channel list (string)	100 - 163	none

Comments

- The <*ch_list*> parameter must specify the channel used to sense the bridge voltage, **not** the channel position on a Bridge Completion SCP.
- **Related Commands:** SENSE:STRAIN:GFAC?, SENSE:FUNC:STRAIN…
- ***RST Condition:** Gage factor is 2

Usage

```
STRAIN:GFAC 3,(@100:107)         set gage factor for channels 0 through 7
```

[SENSe:]STRain:GFACtor?

[SENSe:]STRain:GFACtor? (@*<channel>*) returns the gage factor currently set for the sense channel specified by <*channel*>.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
channel	channel list (string)	100 - 163	none

Comments

- **Returned Value:** Numeric value of gage factor. The C-SCPI type is **flt32**.
- The <*channel*> parameter must specify a single channel only.
- **Related Commands:** STRAIN:GFACTOR

Usage

```
STRAIN:GFAC? (@107)                    query gage factor for channel 7
enter statement here                   returns the gage factor set by STR:GFAC
```

[SENSe:]STRain:POISson

[SENSe:]STRain:POISson <*poisson_ratio*>,(@<*ch_list*>) sets the Poisson ratio to be used for EU conversion of values measured on sense channels specified by <*ch_list*>.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
poisson_ratio	numeric (flt32)	0.1 - 0.5	none
ch_list	channel list (string)	100 - 163	none

Comments

- The <*ch_list*> parameter must specify channels used to sense strain bridge output, **not** channel positions on a Bridge Completion SCP.
- **Related Commands:** FUNC:STRAIN…, STRAIN:POISson?
- ***RST Condition:** Poisson ratio is 0.3

Usage

```
STRAIN:POISSON .5,(@124:131)           set Poisson ratio for sense channels 24
                                       through 31
```

[SENSe:]STRain:POISson?

[SENSe:]STRain:POISson? (@<*channel*>) returns the Poisson ratio currently set for the sense channel specified by <*channel*>.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
channel	channel list (string)	100 - 163	none

Comments

- **Returned Value:** numeric value of the Poisson ratio. C-SCPI type is **flt32**.

- The <*channel*> parameter must specify a single channel only.
- **Related Commands:** FUNC:STRAIN…, STRAIN:POISSON

Usage

```
STRAIN:POISSON? (@131)        query for the Poisson ratio specified for sense channel 31
enter statement here          enter the Poisson ratio value
```

[SENSe:]STRain:UNSTrained

[SENSe:]STRain:UNSTrained <*unstrained_v*>,(@<*ch_list*>) specifies the unstrained voltage value to be used to convert strain bridge readings for the channels specified by <*ch_list*>. This command does not control the output voltage of any source.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
unstrained_v	numeric (flt32)	-16 through +16	volts
ch_list	channel list (string)	100 - 163	none

Comments

- Use a voltage measurement of the unstrained bridge sense channel to determine the correct value for <*unstrained_v*>.
- The <*ch_list*> parameter must specify the channel used to sense the bridge voltage, **not** the channel position on a Bridge Completion SCP.
- **Related Commands:** SENSE:STRAIN:UNST?, SENSE:FUNC:STRAIN…
- ***RST Condition:** Unstrained voltage is zero.

Usage

```
STRAIN:UNST .024,(@100)       set unstrained voltage for channel 0
```

[SENSe:]STRain:UNSTrained?

[SENSe:]STRain:UNSTrained? (@<*channel*>) returns the unstrained voltage value currently set for the sense channel specified by <*channel*>. This command does not make a measurement.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
channel	channel list (string)	100 - 163	none

Comments

- **Returned Value:** Numeric value of unstrained voltage. The C-SCPI type is **flt32**.
- The <*channel*> parameter must specify a single channel only.

- **Related Commands:** STRAIN:UNST

Usage

```
STRAIN:UNST? (@107)          query unstrained voltage for channel 7
enter statement here         returns the unstrained voltage set by
                             STR:UNST
```

[SENSe:]TOTalize:RESet:MODE

[SENSe:]TOTalize:RESet:MODE <*select*>,<*ch_list*> sets the mode for resetting totalizer channels in <*ch_list*>.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
select	discrete (string)	INIT | TRIGger	seconds
ch_list	string	132 - 163	none

Comments

- In the INIT mode the total is reset only when the INITiate command is executed. In the TRIGger mode the total is reset every time a new scan is triggered.
- If the channels specified are not on a Frequency/Totalize SCP, an error will be generated.
- **Related Commands:** SENS:FUNC:TOT, INPUT:POLARITY
- ***RST Condition:** SENS:TOT:RESET:MODE INIT

Usage

```
SENS:TOT:RESET:MODE TRIG,(@148)   totalizer at channel 48 resets at each trigger
                                  event
```

[SENSe:]TOTalize:RESet:MODE?

[SENSe:]TOTalize:RESet:MODE? <*channel*> returns the reset mode for the totalizer channel in <*channel*>.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
channel	string	132 - 163	none

Comments

- The <*channel*> parameter must specify a single channel.
- If the channel specified is not on a frequency/totalize SCP, an error will be generated.
- **Returned Value:** returns INIT or TRIG. The type is **string**.

SOURce

The SOURce command subsystem allows configuring output SCPs as well as linking channels to output functions.

Subsystem Syntax

```
SOURce
    :FM
        :STATe  1 | 0 | ON | OFF,(@<ch_list>)
        :STATe?  (@<channel>)
    :FUNCtion
        [:SHAPe]
            :CONDition  (@<ch_list>)
            :PULSe  (@<ch_list>)
            :SQUare  (@<ch_list>)
    :PULM
        :STATe  1 | 0 | ON | OFF,(@<ch_list>)
        :STATe?  (@<channel>)
    :PULSe
        :PERiod  <period>,(@<ch_list>)
        :PERiod?  (@<channel>)
        :WIDTh  <pulse_width>,(@<ch_list>)
        :WIDTh?  (@<channel>)
```

SOURce:FM[:STATe]

SOURce:FM[:STATe] <*enable*>,(@<*ch_list*>) enables the Frequency Modulated mode for a PULSe channel.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
enable	boolean (uint16)	1 | 0 | ON | OFF	none
ch_list	string	132 - 163	none

Comments

- This command is coupled with the SOURce:PULM:STATE command. If the FM state is ON then the PULM state is OFF. If the PULM state is ON then the FM state is OFF. If both the FM and the PULM states are OFF then the PULSe channel is in the single pulse mode.
- If the channels specified are not on a Frequency/Totalize SCP, an error will be generated.
- Use SOURce:FUNCtion[:SHAPe]:SQUare to set FM pulse train to 50% duty cycle. Use SOURce:PULSe:PERiod to set the period
- ***RST Condition:** SOUR:FM:STATE OFF, SOUR:PULM:STATE OFF, SENS:FUNC:COND and INP:POL for all digital SCP channels

- **Related Commands:** SOUR:PULM[:STATe], SOUR:PULS:POLarity, SOUR:PULS:PERiod, SOUR:FUNC[:SHAPe]:SQUare
- The variable frequency control for this channel is provided by the algorithm language. When the algorithm executes an assignment statement to this channel, the value assigned will be the frequency setting. For example:

```
O148 = 2000 /* set channel 48 to 2 kHz */
```

SOURce:FM:STATe?

SOURce:FM:STATe? (@<*channel*>) returns the frequency modulated mode state for a PULSe channel.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
channel	string	132 - 163	none

Comments

- The <*channel*> parameter must specify a single channel.
- If the channel specified is not on a Frequency/Totalize SCP, an error will be generated.
- **Returned Value:** returns 1 (ON) or 0 (OFF). The type is **uint16**.

SOURce:FUNCtion[:SHAPe]:CONDition

SOURce:FUNCtion[:SHAPe]:CONDition (@<*ch_list*>) sets the SOURce function to output digital patterns to bits in <*ch_list*>.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
ch_list	string	132 - 163	none

Comments

- The VT1533A SCP sources 8 digital bits on the channel specified by this command. The VT1534A SCP can source one digital bit on each of the channels specified by this command.

SOURce:FUNCtion[:SHAPe]:PULSe

SOURce:FUNCtion[:SHAPe]:PULSe (@<*ch_list*>) sets the SOURce function to PULSe for the channels in <*ch_list*>.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
ch_list	string	132 - 163	none

Comments

- This PULSe channel function is further defined by the SOURce:FM:STATe and SOURce:PULM:STATe commands. If the FM state is enabled then the frequency modulated mode is active. If the PULM state is enabled then the pulse width modulated mode is active. If both the FM and the PULM states are disabled then the PULSe channel is in the single pulse mode.

SOURce:FUNCtion[:SHAPe]:SQUare

SOURce:FUNCtion[:SHAPe]:SQUare (@<*ch_list*>) sets the SOURce function to output a square wave (50% duty cycle) on the channels in <*ch_list*>.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
ch_list	string	132 - 163	none

Comments

- The frequency control for these channels is provided by the algorithm language function:.

```
O149 = 2000 /* set channel 49 to 2 kHz */
```

SOURce:PULM[:STATe]

SOURce:PULM[:STATe] <*enable*>,(@<*ch_list*>) enable the pulse width modulated mode for the PULSe channels in <*ch_list*>.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
enable	boolean (uint16)	1 | 0 | ON | OFF	none
ch_list	string	132 - 163	none

Comments

- This command is coupled with the SOURce:FM command. If the FM state is enabled then the PULM state is disabled. If the PULM state is enabled then the FM state is disabled. If both the FM and the PULM states are disabled then the PULSe channel is in the single pulse mode.

- If the channels specified are not on a Frequency/Totalize SCP, an error will be generated.
- ***RST Condition:** SOUR:PULM:STATE OFF

SOURce:PULM:STATe?

SOURce:PULM[:STATe]? (@<*channel*>) returns the pulse width modulated mode state for the PULSe channel in <*channel*>.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
channel	string	132 - 163	none

Comments

- The <*channel*> parameter must specify a single channel.
- **Returned Value:** returns ON or OFF. The type is **string**.

SOURce:PULSe:PERiod

SOURce:PULSe:PERiod <*period*>,(@<*ch_list*>) sets the fixed pulse period value on a pulse width modulated pulse channel. This sets the frequency (1/period) of the pulse-width-modulated pulse train.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
period	numeric (float32)	25E-6 to 7.8125E-3 (resolution 0.238 μs)	seconds
ch_list	string	132 - 163	none

Comments

- If the channels specified are not on a Frequency/Totalize SCP, an error will be generated.
- ***RST Condition:** SOUR:FM:STATE OFF and SOUR:PULM:STATE OFF
- **Related Commands:** SOUR:PULM:STATE, SOUR:PULS:POLarity
- The variable pulse-width control for this channel is provided by the algorithm language. When the algorithm executes an assignment statement to this channel, the value assigned will be the pulse-width setting. For example:

```
O150 = .0025 /* set channel 50 pulse-width to 2.5 ms */
```

Usage

```
SOUR:PULS:PER .005,(@148)          set PWM pulse train to 200 Hz on chn 48
```

SOURce:PULSe:PERiod?

SOURce:PULSe:PERiod? (@<*channel*>) returns the fixed pulse period value on the pulse width modulated pulse channel in <*channel*>.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
channel	string	132 - 163	none

Comments

- If the channels specified are not on a Frequency/Totalize SCP, an error will be generated.
- **Returned Value:** numeric period. The type is **float32**.

SOURce:PULSe:WIDTh

SOURce:PULSe:WIDTh <*pulse_width*>,(@<*ch_list*>) sets the fixed pulse width value on the frequency modulated pulse channels in <*ch_list*>.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
pulse_width	numeric (float32)	7.87E-6 to 7.8125E-3 (238.4E-9 resolution)	seconds
ch_list	string	132 - 163	none

Comments

- If the channels specified are not on a Frequency/Totalize SCP, an error will be generated.
- ***RST Condition:** SOUR:FM:STATE OFF and SOUR:PULM:STATE OFF
- **Related Commands:** SOUR:PULM:STATE, SOUR:PULS:POLarity
- The variable frequency control for this channel is provided by the algorithm language. When the algorithm executes an assignment statement to this channel, the value assigned will be the frequency setting. For example:

```
O149 = 2000 /* set channel 49 to 2 kHz */
```

Usage

```
SOUR:PULS:WIDTH  2.50E-3,(@149)
```

set fixed pulse width of 2.5 ms on channel 49

SOURce:PULSe:WIDTh?

SOURce:PULSe:WIDTh? (@<*ch_list*>) returns the fixed pulse width value on a frequency modulated pulse channel.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
channel	string	132 - 163	none

Comments

- The <*channel*> parameter must specify a single channel.
- If the channels specified are not on a Frequency/Totalize SCP, an error will be generated.
- **Returned Value:** returns the numeric pulse width. The type is **float32**.

STATus

The STATus subsystem communicates with the SCPI defined Operation and Questionable Data status register sets. Each is comprised of a Condition register, a set of Positive and Negative Transition Filter registers, an Event register and an Enable register. Condition registers allow the current real-time states of their status signal inputs to be viewed (signal states are not latched). The Positive and Negative Transition Filter registers allow the polarity of change from the Condition registers that will set Event register bits to be controlled. Event registers contain latched representations of signal transition events from their Condition register. Querying an Event register reads and then clears its contents, making it ready to record further event transitions from its Condition register. Enable registers are used to select which signals from an Event register will be logically OR'ed together to form a summary bit in the Status Byte Summary register. Setting a bit to one in an Enable register enables the corresponding bit from its Event register.

NOTE For a complete discussion and more detailed status illustration see “Using the Status System” on page 88.

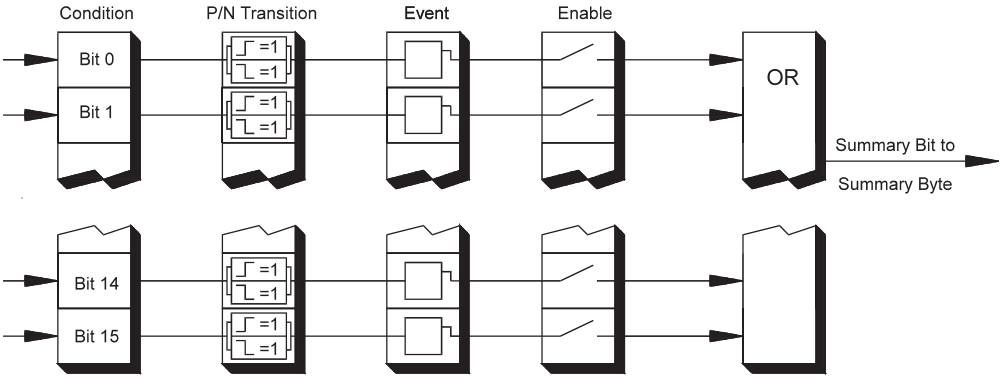


Figure 6-4: General Status Register Organization

Initializing the Status System

The following table shows the effect of Power-on, *RST, *CLS, and STATus:PRESet on the status system register settings.

	SCPI Transition Filters	SCPI Enable Registers	SCPI Event Registers	IEEE 488.2 Registers ESE and SRE	IEEE 488.2 Registers SESR and STB
Power-on	preset	preset	clear	clear	clear
***RST**	none	none	none	none	none
***CLS**	none	none	clear	none	clear
STAT:PRESET	preset	preset	none	none	none

Subsystem Syntax

```
STATus
    :OPERation
        :CONDition?
        :ENABle <enable_mask>
        :ENABle?
        [:EVENt]?
        :NTRansition <transition_mask>
        :NTRansition?
        :PTRansition <transition_mask>
        :PTRansition?
    :PRESet
    :QUEStionable
        :CONDition?
        :ENABle <enable_mask>
        :ENABle?
        [:EVENt]?
        :NTRansition <transition_mask>
        :NTRansition?
        :PTRansition <transition_mask>
        :PTRansition?
```

The Status system contains four status groups

- Operation Status Group
- Questionable Data Group
- Standard Event Group
- Status Byte Group

This SCPI STATus subsystem communicates with the first two groups while IEEE-488.2 Common Commands (documented later in this chapter) communicate with Standard Event and Status Byte Groups.

Weighted Bit Values

Register queries are returned using decimal weighted bit values. Enable registers can be set using decimal, hex, octal, or binary. The following table can be used to help set Enable registers using decimal and decode register queries.

Status System Decimal Weighted Bit Values

bit#	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
value	always 0	16,384	8,192	4,096	2,048	1,024	512	256	128	64	32	16	8	4	2	1

The Operation Status Group

The Operation Status Group indicates the current operating state of the VT1419A. The bit assignments are:

Bit #	dec value	hex value	Bit Name	Description
0	1	0001_{16}	Calibrating	Set by CAL:TARE and CAL:SETup. Cleared by CAL:TARE? and CAL:SETup?. Set while *CAL? executes and reset when *CAL? completes. Set by CAL:CONFIG:VOLT or CAL:CONFIG:RES, cleared by CAL:VAL:VOLT or CAL:VAL:RES.
1-3				Not used
4	16	0010_{16}	Measuring	Set when instrument INITiated. Cleared when instrument returns to Trigger Idle State.
5-7				Not used
8	256	0100_{16}	Scan Complete	Set when each pass through a Scan List completed (may not indicate all measurements have been taken when TRIG:COUNT >1).
9	512	0200_{16}	SCP Trigger	An SCP has sourced a trigger event (future VT1419A SCPs)
10	1024	0400_{16}	FIFO Half Full	The FIFO contains at least 32,768 readings
11	2048	0800_{16}	Algorithm Interrupted	The *interrupt()* function was called in an algorithm
12-15				Not used

STATus:OPERation:CONDition?

STATus:OPERation:CONDition? returns the decimal weighted value of the bits set in the Condition register.

Comments

- The Condition register reflects the real-time state of the status signals. The signals are not latched; therefore past events are not retained in this register (see STAT:OPER:EVENT?).

- **Returned Value:** Decimal weighted sum of all set bits. The C-SCPI type is **uint16**.
- **Related Commands:** *CAL?, CAL:ZERO, INITiate[:IMMediate], STAT:OPER:EVENT?, STAT:OPER:ENABLE, STAT:OPER:ENABLE?
- ***RST Condition:** No Change

Usage

```
STATUS:OPERATION:CONDITION?
```

Enter statement will return value from condition register

STATus:OPERation:ENABle

STATus:OPERation:ENABle ***<enable_mask>*** sets bits in the Enable register that will enable corresponding bits from the Event register to set the Operation summary bit.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
enable_mask	numeric (uint16)	0-32767	none

Comments

- <*enable_mask*> may be sent as decimal, hex (#H), octal (#Q), or binary (#B).
- VXI Interrupts: When Operation Status Group bits 4, 8, 9, 10, or 11 are enabled, VXI card interrupts will occur as follows:

  When the event corresponding to bit 4 occurs and then is cleared, the card will generate a VXI interrupt. When the event corresponding to bit 8, 9, 10, or 11 occurs, the card will generate a VXI interrupt.

  NOTE: In C-SCPI, the C-SCPI overlap mode must be on for VXIbus interrupts to occur.
- **Related Commands:** *STB?, SPOLL, STAT:OPER:COND?, STAT:OPER:EVENT?, STAT:OPER:ENABLE?
- **Cleared By:** STAT:PRESet and power-on.
- ***RST Condition:** No change

Usage

```
STAT:OPER:ENABLE 1
```

Set bit 0 in the Operation Enable register

STATus:OPERation:ENABle?

STATus:OPERation:ENABle? returns the value of bits set in the Operation Enable register.

Comments

- **Returned Value:** Decimal weighted sum of all set bits. The C-SCPI type is **uint16**.
- **Related Commands:** *STB?, SPOLL, STAT:OPER:COND?, STAT:OPER:EVENT?, STAT:OPER:ENABLE
- ***RST Condition:** No change

Usage

STAT:OPER:ENABLE? — *Enter statement returns current value of bits set in the Operation Enable register*

STATus:OPERation[:EVENt]?

STATus:OPERation[:EVENt]? returns the decimal weighted value of the bits set in the Event register.

Comments

- When using the Operation Event register to cause SRQ interrupts, STAT:OPER:EVENT? must be executed after an SRQ to clear the event register and re-enable future interrupts.
- **Returned Value:** Decimal weighted sum of all set bits. The C-SCPI type is **uint16**.
- **Related Commands:** *STB?, SPOLL, STAT:OPER:COND?, STAT:OPER:ENABLE, STAT:OPER:ENABLE?
- **Cleared By**: *CLS, power-on and by reading the register.
- ***RST Condition:** No change

Usage

STAT:OPER:EVENT? — *Enter statement will return the value of bits set in the Operation Event register*

STAT:OPER? — *Same as above*

STATus:OPERation:NTRansition

STATus:OPERation:NTRansition ***<transition_mask>*** sets bits in the Negative Transition Filter (NTF) register. When a bit in the NTF register is set to one, the corresponding bit in the Condition register must change from a one to a zero in order to set the corresponding bit in the Event register. When a bit in the NTF register is zero, a negative transition of the Condition register bit will not change the Event register bit.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
transition_mask	numeric (uint16)	0 - 32767	none

Comments

- The <*transition_mask*> parameter may be sent as decimal, hex (#H), octal (#Q), or binary (#B).
- If both the STAT:OPER:PTR and STAT:OPER:NTR registers have a corresponding bit set to one, any transition, positive or negative, will set the corresponding bit in the Event register.
- If neither the STAT:OPER:PTR or STAT:OPER:NTR registers have a corresponding bit set to one, transitions from the Condition register will have no effect on the Event register.
- **Related Commands:** STAT:OPER:NTR?, STAT:OPER:PTR
- **Cleared By**: STAT:PRESet and power-on.
- ***RST Condition:** No change

Usage

```
STAT:OPER:NTR  16
```

When "Measuring" bit goes false, set bit 4 in Status Operation Event register.

STATus:OPERation:NTRansition?

STATus:OPERation:NTRansition? returns the value of bits set in the Negative Transition Filter (NTF) register.

Comments

- **Returned Value:** Decimal weighted sum of all set bits. The C-SCPI type is **uint16**.
- **Related Commands:** STAT:OPER:NTR
- ***RST Condition:** No change

Usage

```
STAT:OPER:NTR?
```

Enter statement returns current value of bits set in the NTF register

STATus:OPERation:PTRansition

STATus:OPERation:PTRansition *<transition_mask>* sets bits in the Positive Transition Filter (PTF) register. When a bit in the PTF register is set to one, the corresponding bit in the Condition register must change from a zero to a one in order to set the corresponding bit in the Event register. When a bit in the PTF register is zero, a positive transition of the Condition register bit will not change the Event register bit.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
transition_mask	numeric (uint16)	0-32767	none

Comments

- <*transition_mask*> may be sent as decimal, hex (#H), octal (#Q), or binary (#B).
- If both the STAT:OPER:PTR and STAT:OPER:NTR registers have a corresponding bit set to one, any transition, positive or negative, will set the corresponding bit in the Event register.
- If neither the STAT:OPER:PTR or STAT:OPER:NTR registers have a corresponding bit set to one, transitions from the Condition register will have no effect on the Event register.
- **Related Commands:** STAT:OPER:PTR?, STAT:OPER:NTR
- Set to all ones by: STAT:PRESet and power-on.
- ***RST Condition:** No change

Usage

```
STAT:OPER:PTR  16
```

When "Measuring" bit goes true, set bit 4 in Status Operation Event register.

STATus:OPERation:PTRansition?

STATus:OPERation:PTRansition? returns the value of bits set in the Positive Transition Filter (PTF) register.

Comments

- **Returned Value:** Decimal weighted sum of all set bits. The C-SCPI type is **uint16**.
- **Related Commands:** STAT:OPER:PTR
- ***RST Condition:** No change

Usage

```
STAT:OPER:PTR?
```

Enter statement returns current value of bits set in the PTF register

STATus:PRESet

STATus:PRESet sets the Operation Status Enable and Questionable Data Enable registers to 0. After executing this command, none of the events in the Operation Event or Questionable Event registers will be reported as a summary bit in either the Status Byte Group or Standard Event Status Group. STATus:PRESet does not clear either of the Event registers.

Comments

- **Related Commands:** *STB?, SPOLL, STAT:OPER:ENABLE, STAT:OPER:ENABLE?, STAT:QUES:ENABLE, STAT:QUES:ENABLE?
- ***RST Condition:** No change

Usage

```
STAT:PRESET
```

Clear both of the Enable registers

The Questionable Data Group

The Questionable Data Group indicates when errors are causing lost or questionable data. The bit assignments are:

Bit #	dec value	hex value	Bit Name	Description
0-7				Not used
8	256	0100_{16}	Calibration Lost	At *RST or Power-on Control Processor has found a checksum error in the Calibration Constants. Read error(s) with SYST:ERR? and re-calibrate area(s) that lost constants.
9	512	0200_{16}	Trigger Too Fast	Scan not complete when another trigger event received.
10	1024	0400_{16}	FIFO Overflowed	Attempt to store more than 65,024 readings in FIFO.
11	2048	0800_{16}	Over voltage Detected on Input	If the input protection jumper has not been cut, the input relays have been opened and *RST is required to reset the module. Overvoltage will also generate an error.
12	4096	1000_{16}	VME Memory Overflow	The number of readings taken exceeds VME memory space.
13	8192	2000_{16}	Setup Changed	Channel Calibration in doubt because SCP setup may have changed since last *CAL? or CAL:SETup command. (*RST always sets this bit).
14-15				Not used

STATus:QUEStionable:CONDition?

STATus:QUEStionable:CONDition? returns the decimal weighted value of the bits set in the Condition register.

Comments

- The Condition register reflects the real-time state of the status signals. The signals are not latched; therefore past events are not retained in this register (see STAT:QUES:EVENT?).
- **Returned Value:** Decimal weighted sum of all set bits. The C-SCPI type is **uint16**.
- **Related Commands:** CAL:VALUE:RESISTANCE, CAL:VALUE:VOLTAGE, STAT:QUES:EVENT?, STAT:QUES:ENABLE, STAT:QUES:ENABLE?
- ***RST Condition:** No change

Usage

```
STATUS:QUESTIONABLE:CONDITION?    Enter statement will return value from condition register
```

STATus:QUEStionable:ENABle

STATus:QUEStionable:ENABle ***<enable_mask>*** sets bits in the Enable register that will enable corresponding bits from the Event register to set the Questionable summary bit.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
enable_mask	numeric (uint16)	0-32767	none

Comments

- The <*enable_mask*> parameter may be sent as decimal, hex (#H), octal (#Q), or binary (#B).
- VXI Interrupts: When bits 9, 10, or 11 are enabled and C-SCPI overlap mode is on (or if using non-compiled SCPI), VXI card interrupts will be enabled. When the event corresponding to bit 9, 10, or 11 occurs, the card will generate a VXI interrupt.
- **Related Commands:** *STB?, SPOLL, STAT:QUES:COND?, STAT:QUES:EVENT?, STAT:QUES:ENABLE?
- **Cleared By**: STAT:PRESet and power-on.
- ***RST Condition:** No change

Usage

```
STAT:QUES:ENABLE 128
```

Set bit 7 in the Questionable Enable register

STATus:QUEStionable:ENABle?

STATus:QUEStionable:ENABle? returns the value of bits set in the Questionable Enable register.

Comments

- **Returned Value:** Decimal weighted sum of all set bits. The C-SCPI type is **uint16**.
- **Related Commands:** *STB?, SPOLL, STAT:QUES:COND?, STAT:QUES:EVENT?, STAT:QUES:ENABLE
- ***RST Condition:** No change

Usage

```
STAT:QUES:ENABLE?
```

Enter statement returns current value of bits set in the Questionable Enable register

STATus:QUEStionable[:EVENt]?

STATus:QUEStionable[:EVENt]? returns the decimal weighted value of the bits set in the Event register.

Comments

- When using the Questionable Event register to cause SRQ interrupts, STAT:QUES:EVENT? must be executed after an SRQ to clear the register and re-enable future interrupts.
- **Returned Value:** Decimal weighted sum of all set bits. The C-SCPI type is **uint16**.
- **Cleared By**: *CLS, power-on and by reading the register.
- **Related Commands:** *STB?, SPOLL, STAT:QUES:COND?, STAT:QUES:ENABLE, STAT:QUES:ENABLE?

Usage

STAT:QUES:EVENT?	*Enter statement will return the value of bits set in the Questionable Event register*
STAT:QUES?	*Same as above*

STATus:QUEStionable:NTRansition

STATus:QUEStionable:NTRansition *<transition_mask>* sets bits in the Negative Transition Filter (NTF) register. When a bit in the NTF register is set to one, the corresponding bit in the Condition register must change from a one to a zero in order to set the corresponding bit in the Event register. When a bit in the NTF register is zero, a negative transition of the Condition register bit will not change the Event register bit.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
transition_mask	numeric (uint16)	0-32767	none

Comments

- The <*transition_mask*> parameter may be sent as decimal, hex (#H), octal (#Q), or binary (#B).
- If both the STAT:QUES:PTR and STAT:QUES:NTR registers have a corresponding bit set to one, any transition, positive or negative, will set the corresponding bit in the Event register.
- If neither the STAT:QUES:PTR or STAT:QUES:NTR registers have a corresponding bit set to one, transitions from the Condition register will have no effect on the Event register.
- **Related Commands:** STAT:QUES:NTR?, STAT:QUES:PTR
- **Cleared By**: STAT:PRESet and power-on.
- ***RST Condition:** No change

Usage

STAT:QUES:NTR 1024	*When "FIFO Overflowed" bit goes false, set bit 10 in Status Questionable Event register.*

STATus:QUEStionable:NTRansition?

STATus:QUEStionable:NTRansition? returns the value of bits set in the Negative Transition Filter (NTF) register.

Comments

- **Returned Value:** Decimal weighted sum of all set bits. The C-SCPI type is **uint16**.
- **Related Commands:** STAT:QUES:NTR
- ***RST Condition:** No change

Usage

```
STAT:QUES:NTR?
```

Enter statement returns current value of bits set in the NTF register

STATus:QUEStionable:PTRansition

STATus:QUEStionable:PTRansition ***<transition_mask>*** sets bits in the Positive Transition Filter (PTF) register. When a bit in the PTF register is set to one, the corresponding bit in the Condition register must change from a zero to a one in order to set the corresponding bit in the Event register. When a bit in the PTF register is zero, a positive transition of the Condition register bit will not change the Event register bit.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
transition_mask	numeric (uint16)	0 - 32767	none

Comments

- <*transition_mask*> may be sent as decimal, hex (#H), octal (#Q), or binary (#B).
- If both the STAT:QUES:PTR and STAT:QUES:NTR registers have a corresponding bit set to one, any transition, positive or negative, will set the corresponding bit in the Event register.
- If neither the STAT:QUES:PTR or STAT:QUES:NTR registers have a corresponding bit set to one, transitions from the Condition register will have no effect on the Event register.
- **Related Commands:** STAT:QUES:PTR?, STAT:QUES:NTR
- **Set to all ones by:** STAT:PRESet and power-on.
- ***RST Condition:** No change

Usage

```
STAT:QUES:PTR  1024
```

When "FIFO Overflowed" bit goes true, set bit 10 in Status Operation Event register.

STATus:QUEStionable:PTRansition?

STATus:QUEStionable:PTRansition? returns the value of bits set in the Positive Transition Filter (PTF) register.

Comments

- **Returned Value:** Decimal weighted sum of all set bits. The C-SCPI type is **uint16**.
- **Related Commands:** STAT:QUES:PTR
- ***RST Condition:** No change

Usage

```
STAT:OPER:PTR?          Enter statement returns current value of bits set in the PTF register
```

SYSTem

The SYSTem subsystem is used to query for error messages, types of Signal Conditioning Plug-Ons (SCPs) and the SCPI version currently implemented.

Subsystem Syntax

```
SYSTem
    :CTYPe?  (@<channel>)
    :ERRor?
    :VERSion?
```

SYSTem:CTYPe?

SYSTem:CTYPe? (@*<channel>*) returns the identification of the Signal Conditioning Plug-On installed at the specified channel.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
channel	channel list (string)	100 - 163	none

Comments

- The <*channel*> parameter must specify a single channel only.
- **Returned Value:** An example of the response string format is:
  AGILENT TECHNOLOGIES,E1419 Option <*option number and description*> SCP,0,0

  The C-SCPI type is **string**. For specific response string, refer to the appropriate SCP manual. If <*channel*> specifies a position where no SCP is installed, the module returns the response string:
  0,No SCP at this Address,0,0

Usage

```
SYST:CTYPE?  (@100)          return SCP type install at channel 0
```

SYSTem:ERRor?

SYSTem:ERRor? returns the latest error entered into the Error Queue.

Comments

- SYST:ERR? returns one error message from the Error Queue (returned error is removed from queue). To return all errors in the queue, repeatedly execute SYST:ERR? until the error message string = +0, “No error”
- **Returned Value:** Errors are returned in the form: ±<error number>, “<*error message string*>”
- RST Condition: Error Queue is empty.

Usage

SYST:ERR? *returns the next error message from the Error Queue*

SYSTem:VERSion?

SYSTem:VERSion? returns the version of SCPI this instrument complies with.

Comments

- **Returned Value:** String “1990." The C-SCPI type is **string**.

Usage

SYST:VER? *Returns “1990"*

TRIGger

The TRIGger command subsystem controls the behavior of the trigger system once it is initiated (see INITiate command subsystem).

Figure 6-5 shows the overall Trigger System model. The shaded area shows the ARM subsystem portion.

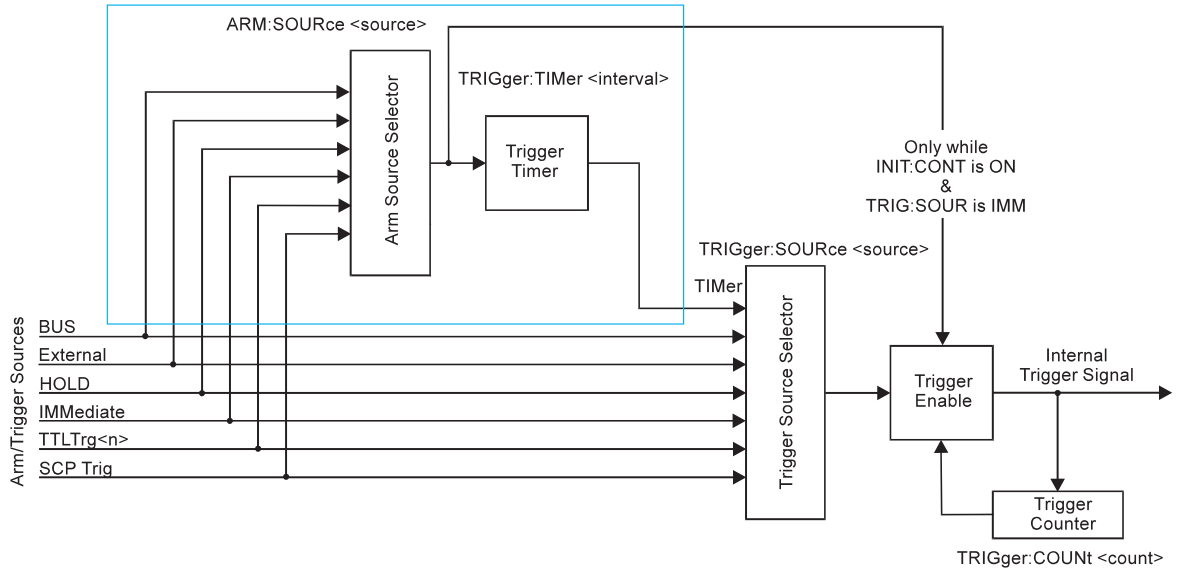


Figure 6-5: Logical Trigger Model

CAUTION!

- Algorithms execute, at most, once per trigger event. Should trigger events cease (external trigger source stops) or become ignored (TRIGger:COUNt reached), algorithm execution will stop. In this case, control outputs are left at the last value set by the algorithms. Depending on the process, this uncontrolled situation could be dangerous. Make certain that the process is in a safe state before halting (stop triggering) execution of a controlling algorithm.
- The Agilent/HP E1535 Watchdog Timer SCP was specifically developed to automatically signal that an algorithm has stopped controlling a process. Use of the Watchdog Timer is recommended for critical processes.

Event Sequence Figure 6-6 shows how the module responds to various trigger/arm configurations.

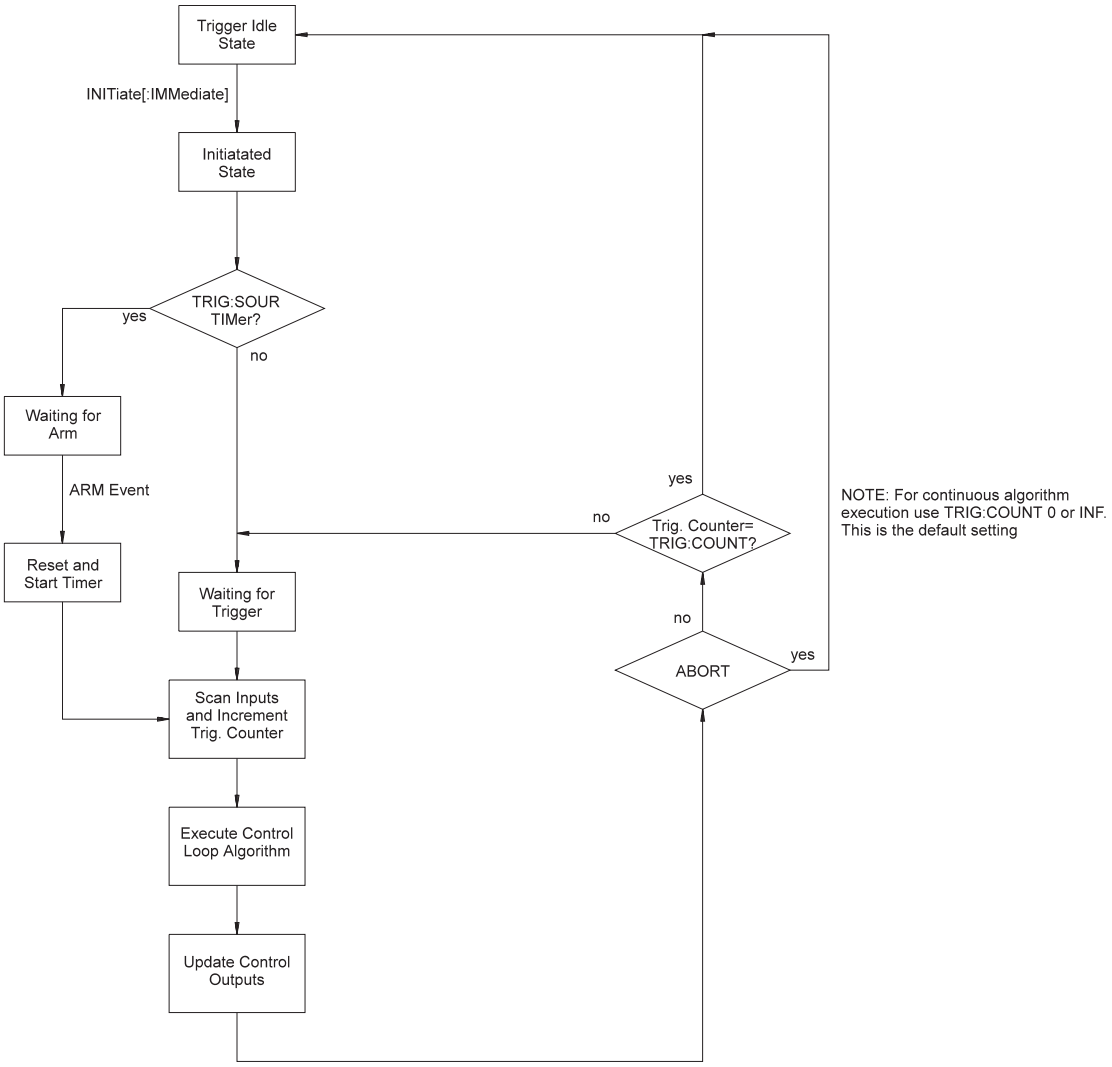


Figure 6-6: Trigger/Scan Sequence Diagram

Subsystem Syntax

```
TRIGger
    :COUNt  <trig_count>
    :COUNt?
    [:IMMediate]
    :SOURce  BUS | EXTernal | HOLD | SCP | IMMediate | TIMer | TTLTrg<n>
    :SOURce?
    :TIMer
        [:PERiod]  <trig_interval>
        [:PERiod]?
```

TRIGger:COUNt

TRIGger:COUNt ***<trig_count>*** sets the number of times the module can be triggered before it returns to the Trigger Idle State. The default count is 0 (same as INF) so accepts continuous triggers. See Figure 6-6.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
trig_count	numeric (uint16) (string)	0 to 65535 | INF	none

Comments

- When <*trig_count*> is set to 0 or INF, the trigger counter is disabled. Once INITiated the module will return to the Waiting For Trigger State after each trigger event. The ABORT (preferred) and *RST commands will return the module to the Trigger Idle State. ABORT is preferred since *RST also returns other module configurations to their default settings.
- The default count is 0
- **Related Commands:** TRIG:COUNT?
- ***RST Condition:** TRIG:COUNT 0

Usage

```
TRIG:COUNT 10          Set the module to make 10 passes all enabled algorithms.
TRIG:COUNT 0           Set the module to accept unlimited triggers (the default)
```

TRIGger:COUNt?

TRIGger:COUNt? returns the currently set trigger count.

Comments

- If TRIG:COUNT? returns 0, the trigger counter is disabled and the module will accept an unlimited number of trigger events.
- **Returned Value:** Numeric 0 through 65,535. The C-SCPI type is **int32**.
- **Related Commands:** TRIG:COUNT
- ***RST Condition:** TRIG:COUNT? returns 0

Usage

```
TRIG:COUNT?            Query for trigger count setting
enter statement        Returns the TRIG:COUNT setting
```

TRIGger[:IMMediate]

TRIGger[:IMMediate] causes one trigger when the module is set to the TRIG:SOUR BUS or TRIG:SOUR HOLD mode.

Comments

- This command is equivalent to the *TRG common command or the IEEE-488.2 “GET” bus command.
- **Related Commands:** TRIG:SOURCE

Usage

```
TRIG:IMM                    Use TRIGGER to start a measurement scan
```

TRIGger:SOURce

TRIGger:SOURce ***<trig_source>*** configures the trigger system to respond to the trigger event.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
trig_source	discrete (string)	BUS | EXT | HOLD | IMM | SCP | TIM | TTLTrg<n>	none

Comments

- The following table explains the possible choices.

Parameter Value	Source of Trigger
BUS	TRIGger[:IMMediate], *TRG, GET (for GPIB)
EXTernal	“TRG” signal on terminal module
HOLD	TRIGger[:IMMediate]
IMMediate	The trigger event is always satisfied.
SCP	SCP Trigger Bus (future SCP Breadboard)
TIMer	The internal trigger timer
TTLTrg<n>	The VXIbus TTLTRG lines (n=0 through 7)

NOTE The ARM system only exists while TRIG:SOUR is TIMer. When TRIG:SOUR is not TIMer, SCPI compatibility requires that ARM:SOUR be IMM or an Error -221,"Settings conflict" will be generated.

- While TRIG:SOUR is IMM, simply INITiate the trigger system to start a measurement scan.

- While TRIG:SOUR IMM provides the fastest trigger repetition rate, the trigger occurrence time is not deterministic. In addition, there is no means to synchronize the start of algorithm execution with an external input since when TRIG:SOUR is IMM, ARM:SOUR must also be set to IMM. The TRIG:SOUR TIMER provides both a deterministic occurrence of algorithm executions and the ability to synchronize this with an external signal (ARM:SOUR EXT).
- **When Accepted: Before INIT only**.
- **Related Commands:** ABORt, INITiate, *TRG
- ***RST Condition:** TRIG:SOUR TIMER

Usage

TRIG:SOUR EXT	*Hardware trigger input at Connector Module*

TRIGger:SOURce?

TRIGger:SOURce? returns the current trigger source configuration.

- **Returned Value:** Discrete; one of BUS, EXT, HOLD, IMM, SCP, TIM or TTLT0 through TTLT7. The C-SCPI type is **string**. See the TRIG:SOUR command for more response data information.

Usage

TRIG:SOUR?	*ask VT1419A to return trigger source configuration*

TRIGger:TIMer[:PERiod]

TRIGger:TIMer[:PERiod] ***<trig_interval>*** sets the interval between scan triggers. Used with the TRIG:SOUR TIMER trigger mode.

Parameters

Parameter Name	Parameter Type	Range of Values	Default Units
trig_interval	numeric (float32) (string)	100E-6 to 6.5536 | MIN | MAX	seconds

Comments

- In order for the TRIG:TIMER to start it must be Armed. For information on timer arming see the ARM subsystem in this command reference.
- The default interval is 10E-3 seconds. ***<interval>*** may be specified in seconds, milliseconds (ms) or microseconds (us). For example; 0.0016, 1.6 ms, or 1600 μs. The resolution for <*interval*> is 100 μs.
- **When Accepted:** Before INIT only.
- **Related Commands:** TRIG:SOUR TIMER, ARM:SOUR, ARM:IMM, INIT, TRIG:SOUR?, ALG:EXPL:TIME?

- ***RST Condition:** TRIG:TIM 1.0E-3

Usage

TRIG:TIMER 1.0E-1	*Set the module to scan inputs and execute all algorithms every 100 ms*
TRIG:TIMER 1	*Set the module to scan inputs and execute all algorithms every second*

TRIGger:TIMer[:PERiod]?

TRIGger:TIMer[:PERiod]? returns the currently set Trigger Timer interval.

Comments

- **Returned Value:** Numeric 1 through 6.5536. The C-SCPI type is **float32**.
- **Related Commands:** TRIG:TIMER
- ***RST Condition:** 1.0E-4

Usage

TRIG:TIMER?	*Query trig timer*
enter statement	*Returns the timer setting*

Common Command Reference

The following reference discusses the VT1419A IEEE-488.2 Common commands.

*CAL?

Calibration command. The calibration command causes the Channel Calibration function to be performed for every module channel. The Channel Calibration function includes calibration of A/D Offset and Gain and Offset for all 64 channels. This calibration is accomplished using internal calibration references. The *CAL? command causes the module to calibrate A/D offset and gain and all channel offsets. This may take many minutes to complete. The actual time it will take the VT1419A to complete *CAL? depends on the mix of SCPs installed. *CAL performs literally hundreds of measurements of the internal calibration sources for each channel and must allow seventeen time constants of settling wait each time a filtered channel's calibrations source value is changed. The *CAL procedure is internally very sophisticated and results in an extremely well calibrated module.

To perform Channel Calibration on multiple VT1419As, use CAL:SETup.

- **Returned Value:**

Value	Meaning	Further Action
0	Cal OK	None
-1	Cal Error	Query the Error Queue (SYST:ERR?) See Error Messages in Appendix B

The C-SCPI type for this returned value is **int16**.

- When Accepted: Not while INITiated
- **Related Commands:** CALibration:SETup, CALibration:SETup?, CALibration:STORe ADC
- CAL:STOR ADC stores the calibration constants for *CAL? and CAL:SETup into non-volatile memory.
- Executing this command **does not** alter the module's programmed state (function, range, etc.). It does however clear STAT:QUES:COND? register bit 13.

NOTE If Open Transducer Detect (OTD) is enabled when *CAL? is executed, the module will disable OTD, wait 1 minute to allow channels to settle, perform the calibration, and then re-enable OTD. If the program turns off OTD before executing *CAL?, it should also wait 1 minute for settling.

*CLS

Clear Status Command. The *CLS command clears all status event registers (Standard Event Status Event Register, Standard Operation Status Event Register, Questionable Data Event Register) and the instrument's error queue. This clears the corresponding summary bits (bits 3, 5, & 7) in the Status Byte Register. *CLS does not affect the enable bits in any of the status register groups. (The SCPI command STATus:PRESet does clear the Operation Status Enable and Questionable Data Enable registers.) *CLS disables the Operation Complete function (*OPC command) and the Operation Complete Query function (*OPC? command).

*DMC <*name*>,<*cmd_data*>

Define Macro Command. Assigns one or a sequence of commands to a named macro.

The command sequence may be composed of SCPI and/or Common commands.

The <*name*> parameter may be the same as a SCPI command, but may not be the same as a Common command. When a SCPI named macro is executed, the macro rather than the SCPI command is executed. To regain the function of the SCPI command, execute *EMC 0 command.

The <*cmd_data*> parameter is sent as *arbitrary block program data* (see page 180).

*EMC

Enable Macro Command. When <enable> is non-zero, macros are enabled. When <*enable*> is zero, macros are disabled.

*EMC?

Enable Macro query. Returns either 1 (macros are enabled) or 0 (macros are disabled).

*ESE <*mask*>

Standard Event Status Enable Register Command. Enables one or more events in the Standard Event Status Register to be reported in bit 5 (the Standard Event Status Summary Bit) of the Status Byte Register. Enable an event by specifying its decimal weight for <*mask*>. To enable more than one event (bit), specify the sum of the decimal weights. The C-SCPI type for <*mask*> is **int16**.

Bit #	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**0**
Weighted Value	128	64	32	16	8	4	2	1
Event	power-On	User Request	Command Error	Execution Error	Device Dependent Error	Query Error	Request Control	Operation Complete

*ESE?

Standard Event Status Enable Query. Returns the weighted sum of all enabled (unmasked) bits in the Standard Event Status Register. The C-SCPI type for this returned value is **int16**.

*ESR?

Standard Event Status Register Query. Returns the weighted sum of all set bits in the Standard Event Status Register. After reading the register, *ESR? clears the register. The events recorded in the Standard Event Status Register are independent of whether or not those events are enabled with the *ESE command to set the Standard Event Summary Bit in the Status Byte Register. The Standard Event bits are described in the *ESE command. The C-SCPI type for this returned value is **int16**.

*GMC? <*name*>

Get Macro query. Returns arbitrary block response data which contains the command or command sequence defined for <*name*>. For more information on arbitrary block response data see page 180.

*IDN?

Identity. Returns the device identity. The response consists of the following four fields (fields are separated by commas):

- Manufacturer
- Model Number
- Serial Number (returns 0 if not available)
- Driver Revision (returns 0 if not available)

*IDN? returns the following response strings depending on model and options:
AGILENT TECHNOLOGIES,E1419B,<*serial number*>,<*revision number*>

- The C-SCPI type for this returned value is **string**.

NOTE This response varies with date of the firmware. The revision will vary with the revision of the driver software installed. This is the only indication of which version of the driver is installed.

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*LMC?

Learn Macros query. Returns a quoted string name for each currently defined macro. If more than one macro is defined, the strings are separated by commas (,). If no macro is defined, *LMC? returns a null string.

*OPC

Operation Complete. Causes an instrument to set bit 0 (Operation Complete Message) in the Standard Event Status Register when all pending operations invoked by SCPI commands have been completed. By enabling this bit to be reflected in the Status Byte Register (*ESE 1 command), synchronization between the instrument and an external computer or between multiple instruments can be ensured.

NOTE Do not use *OPC to determine when the CAL:SETUP or CAL:TARE commands have completed. Instead, use their query forms CAL:SETUP? or CAL:TARE?.

*OPC?

Operation Complete Query. Causes an instrument to place a 1 into the instrument's output queue when all pending instrument operations invoked by SCPI commands are finished. By requiring the computer to read this response before continuing program execution, synchronization can be ensured between one or more instruments and the computer. The C-SCPI type for this returned value is **int16**.

NOTE Do not use *OPC? to determine when the CAL:SETUP or CAL:TARE commands have completed. Instead, use their query forms CAL:SETUP? or CAL:TARE?.

*PMC

Purge Macros Command. Purges all currently defined macros.

*RMC <*name*>

Remove individual Macro Command. Removes the named macro command.

*RST

Reset Command. Resets the VT1419A as follows:

- Erases all algorithms
- All elements in the Input Channel Buffer (I100 - I163) set to zero.
- All elements in the Output Channel Buffer (O100-O163) set to zero
- Defines all Analog Input channels to measure voltage
- Configures all Digital I/O channels as inputs
- Resets VT1531A and VT1532A Analog Output SCP channels to zero

- **When Accepted:** Not while INITiated

WARNING Note the change in character of output channels when *RST is received. Digital outputs change to inputs (appearing now is 1 kW to +3 V, a TTL one) and analog control outputs change to zero (current or voltage). Keep these changes in mind when applying the VT1419A to the system or engineering a system for operation with the VT1419A. Also note that each analog output channels disconnects for 5-6 milliseconds to discharge to zero at each *RST.

It isn't difficult to have the VT1419A signal the system when *RST is executed. A solution that can provide signals for several types of failures as well as signaling when *RST is executed is the Agilent/HP E1535 Watchdog Timer SCP. The Watchdog SCP even has an input which can command all of the VT1419A's channels to disconnect from the system.

- Sets the trigger system as follows:
  - TRIGGER:SOURCE TIMER
  - TRIGGER:TIMER 10E-3
  - TRIGGER:COUNT 0 (infinite)
  - ARM:SOURCE IMMEDIATE
- SAMPLE:TIMER 10E-6
- Aborts all pending operations, returns to Trigger Idle state
- Disables the *OPC and *OPC? modes
- MEMORY:VME:ADDRESS 240000; MEMORY:VME:STATE OFF; MEMORY:VME:SIZE 0
- Sets STAT:QUES:COND? bit 13

*RST does not affect:

- Calibration data
- The output queue
- The Service Request Enable (SRE) register
- The Event Status Enable (ESE) register

*SRE <*mask*>

Service Request Enable. When a service request event occurs, it sets a corresponding bit in the Status Byte Register (this happens whether or not the event has been enabled (unmasked) by *SRE). The *SRE command allows events to be identified that will assert a GPIB service request (SRQ). When an event is enabled by *SRE and that event occurs, it sets a bit in the Status Byte Register and issues an SRQ to the computer (sets the GPIB SRQ line true). Enable an event by specifying its decimal weight for <*mask*>. To enable more than one event, specify the sum of the decimal weights. Refer to "The Status Byte Register" for a table showing the contents of the Status Byte Register. The C-SCPI type for <*mask*> is **int16**.

Bit #	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**0**
Weighted Value	128	64	32	16	8	4	2	1
Event	Operation Status	Request Service	Standard Event	Message Available	Questionable Status	not used	not used	not used

*SRE?

Status Register Enable Query. Returns the weighted sum of all enabled (unmasked) events (those enabled to assert SRQ) in the Status Byte Register. The C-SCPI type for this returned value is **int16**.

*STB?

Status Byte Register Query. Returns the weighted sum of all set bits in the Status Byte Register. Refer to the *ESE command earlier in this chapter for a table showing the contents of the Status Byte Register. *STB? does not clear bit 6 (Service Request). The Message Available bit (bit 4) may be cleared as a result of reading the response to *STB?. The C-SCPI type for this returned value is **int16**.

*TRG

Trigger. Triggers an instrument when the trigger source is set to bus (TRIG:SOUR BUS command) and the instrument is in the Wait for Trigger state.

*TST?

Self-Test. Causes an instrument to execute extensive internal self-tests and returns a response showing the results of the self-test.

NOTES

1. During the first 5 minutes after power is applied, *TST? may fail. Allow the module to warm-up before executing *TST?.
2. Module must be screwed securely to mainframe.
3. The VT1419A C-SCPI driver for MS-DOS® implements two versions of *TST. The default version is an abbreviated self test that executes only the Digital Tests. By loading an additional object file, the full self test can be executed as described below. See the documentation that comes with the VT1419A C-SCPI driver for MS-DOS®.

Comments

- **Returned Value:**

Value	Meaning	Further Action
0	*TST? OK	None
-1	*TST? Error	Query the Error Queue (SYST:ERR?) for error 3052. See explanation below.

- IF error 3052 ‘Self test failed. Test info in FIFO’ is returned. A FIFO value of 1 through 99 or >=300 is a failed test number. A value of 100 through 163 is a channel number for the failed test. A value of 200 through 204 is an A/D range number for the failed test where 200 = 0.0625 V, 201 = 0.25 V, 202 = 1 V, 203 = 4 V and 204 = 16 V ranges. For example DATA:FIFO? returns the values 72 and 108. This indicates that test number 72 failed on channel 8.

  Test numbers 20, 30-37, 72, 74-76, and 80-93 may indicate a problem with a Signal Conditioning Plug-On.

  For tests 20 and 30-37, remove all SCPs and see if *TST? passes. If so, replace SCPs one at a time until the one causing the problem is found.

  For tests 72, 74-76, and 80-93, try to re-seat the SCP that the channel number(s) points to or move the SCP and see if the failure(s) follow the SCP. If the problems move with the SCP, replace the SCP.

  These are the only tests where the user should troubleshoot a problem. Other tests which fail should be referred to qualified repair personnel.

NOTE Executing *TST? returns the module to its *RST state. *RST causes the FIFO data format to return to its default of ASC,7. To read the FIFO for *TST? diagnostic information and have that data in a format other than ASCII,7, be certain to set the data FIFO format to the desired format (FORMAT command) after completion of *TST?, but before executing a SENSE:DATA:FIFO... query or command.

- The C-SCPI type for this returned value is **int16**.
- Following *TST?, the module is placed in the *RST state. This returns many of the module's programmed states to their defaults. See page 51 for a list of the module's default states.
- *TST? performs the following tests on the VT1419A and installed Signal Conditioning Plug-Ons:

DIGITAL TESTS:

Test#	Description
1-3:	Writes and reads patterns to registers via A16 & A24
4-5:	Checks FIFO and CVT
6:	Checks measurement complete (Measuring) status bit
7:	Checks operation of FIFO half and FIFO full IRQ generation
8-9:	Checks trigger operation

ANALOG FRONT END DIGITAL TESTS:

Test#	Description
20:	Checks that SCP ID makes sense
30-32:	Checks relay driver and fet mux interface with EU CPU
33,71:	Checks opening of all relays on power down or input overvoltage
34-37:	Check fet mux interface with A/D digital

ANALOG TESTS:

Test#	Description
40-42:	Checks internal voltage reference
43-44:	Checks zero of A/D, internal cal source and relay drives
45-46:	Checks fine offset calibration DAC
47-48:	Checks coarse offset calibration DAC
49:	Checks internal + and -15 V supplies
50-53:	Checks internal calibration source
54-55:	Checks gain calibration DAC
56-57:	Checks that autorange works
58-59:	Checks internal current source
60-63:	Checks front end and A/D noise and A/D filter
64:	Checks zeroing of coarse and fine offset calibration DACs

ANALOG TESTS: (continued)

Test#	Description
65-70:	Checks current source and CAL BUS relay and relay drives and OHM relay drive
71:	See 33
72-73:	Checks continuity through SCPs, bank relays and relay drivers
74:	Checks open transducer detect
75:	Checks current leakage of the SCPs
76:	Checks voltage offset of the SCPs
80:	Checks mid-scale strain dac output. Only reports first channel of SCP.
81:	Checks range of strain dac. Only reports first channel of SCP.
82:	Checks noise of strain dac. Only reports first channel of SCP.
83:	Checks bridge completion leg resistance each channel.
84:	Checks combined leg resistance each channel.
86:	Checks current source SCP's OFF current.
87:	Checks current source SCP's current dac mid-scale.
88:	Checks current source SCP's current dac range on HI and LO ranges.
89:	Checks current source compliance
90:	Checks strain SCP's Wagner Voltage control.
91:	Checks autobalance dac range with input shorted.
92:	Sample and Hold channel holds value even when input value changed.
93:	Sample and Hold channel held value test for droop rate.

ANALOG OUTPUT AND DIGITAL I/O TESTS

301:	Current and Voltage Output SCPs	digital DAC control.
302:	Current and Voltage Output SCPs	DAC noise.
303:	Current Output SCP	offset
304:	Current Output SCP	gain shift
305:	Current Output SCP	offset
306:	Current Output SCP	linearity
307:	Current Output SCP	linearity
308:	Current Output SCP	turn over
313:	Voltage Output SCP	offset
315:	Voltage Output SCP	offset
316:	Voltage Output SCP	linearity
317:	Voltage Output SCP	linearity
318:	Voltage Output SCP	turn over
331:	Digital I/O SCP	internal digital interface
332:	Digital I/O SCP	user input
333:	Digital I/O SCP	user input
334:	Digital I/O SCP	user output
335:	Digital I/O SCP	user output
336:	Digital I/O SCP	output current

337:	Digital I/O SCP	output current
341:	Freq/PWM/FM SCP	internal data0 register
342:	Freq/PWM/FM SCP	internal data1 register
343:	Freq/PWM/FM SCP	internal parameter register
344:	Freq/PWM/FM SCP	on-board processor self-test
345:	Freq/PWM/FM SCP	on-board processor self-test
346:	Freq/PWM/FM SCP	user inputs
347:	Freq/PWM/FM SCP	user outputs
348:	Freq/PWM/FM SCP	outputs ACTive/PASSive
349:	Freq/PWM/FM SCP	output interrupts
350:	Watchdog SCP	enable/disable timer
351:	Watchdog SCP	relay drive and coil closed
352:	Watchdog SCP	relay drive and coil open
353:	Watchdog SCP	I/O Disconnect line
354:	Watchdog SCP	I/O Disconnect supply

*WAI

Wait-to-continue. Prevents an instrument from executing another command until the operation begun by the previous command is finished (sequential operation).

NOTE Do not use *WAI to determine when the CAL:SETUP or CAL:TARE commands have completed. Instead, use their query forms CAL:SETUP? or CAL:TARE?. CAL:SETUP? and CAL:TARE? return a value only after the CAL:SETUP or CAL:TARE operations are complete.

Command Quick Reference

The following tables summarize SCPI and IEEE-488.2 Common (*) commands for the VT1419A Multifunction*Plus*.

SCPI Command Quick Reference

Command	Description
ABORt	Stops scanning immediately and sets trigger system to idle state (scan lists are unaffected)
ALGorithm	Subsystem to define, configure and enable loop control algorithms
[:EXPLicit]	
:ARRay *<alg_name>,<array_name>,<block_data>*	Defines contents of array *<array_name>* in algorithm *<alg_name>* or if *<alg_name>* is “GLOBALS”, defines values global to all algorithms.
:ARRay? *<alg_name>,<array_name>*	Returns block data from *<array_name>* in algorithm *<alg_name>* or if *<alg_name>* is “GLOBALS”, returns values from a global array.
:DEFine *<alg_name>*[,*<swap_size>*],*<program_data>*	Defines algorithms or global variables. <program_data> is ‘C’ source of algorithm or global declaration.
:SCALar *<alg_name>,<var_name>,<value>*	Defines value of variable *<var_name>* in algorithm *<alg_name>* or if *<alg_name>* is “GLOBALS”, defines a value global to all algorithms.
:SCALar? *<alg_name>*,<var_name>	Returns value from *<var_name>* in algorithm *<alg_name>* or if *<alg_name>* is “GLOBALS”, returns a value from global variable.
:SCAN	
:RATio *<alg_name>,<ratio>*	Sets scan triggers per execution of *<alg_name>* (send also ALG:UPD)
:RATio? *<alg_name>*	Returns scan triggers per execution of *<alg_name>*
:SIZe? *<alg_name>*	Returns size in words of named algorithm
:STATe *<alg_name>*,ON | OFF	Enables/disables named algorithm after ALG:UPDATE sent
:STATe? *<alg_name>*	Returns state of named algorithm
:TIME? *<alg_name>* | MAIN	Returns worst case alg execution time. Use “MAIN” for overall time.
:FUNCtion	
:DEFine *<function_name>,<range>,<offset>,<func_data>*	Defines a custom conversion function
:OUTPut	
:DELay *<delay>* | AUTO	Sets the delay from scan trigger to start of outputs
:DELay?	Returns the delay from scan trigger to start of outputs
:UPDate	
[:IMMediate]	Requests immediate update of algorithm code, variable or array
:CHANnel (@*<channel>*	Sets dig channel to synch algorithm updates
:WINDow *<num_updates>*	Sets a window for *num_updates* to occur. *RST default is 20
:WINDow?	Returns setting for allowable number variable and algorithm updates.
ARM	
[:IMMediate]	Arm if ARM:SOUR is BUS or HOLD (software ARM)
:SOURce BUS | EXT | HOLD | IMM | SCP | TTLTrg<n>	Specify the source of Trigger Timer ARM
:SOURce?	Return current ARM source
CALibration	
:CONFigure	Prepare to measure on-board references with an external multimeter
:RESistance	Configure to measure reference resistor
:VOLTage *<range>*, ZERO | FSCale	Configure to measure reference voltage range at zero or full scale
:SETup	Performs Channel Calibration procedure
:SETup?	Returns state of CAL:SETup operation (returns error codes or 0 for OK)
:STORe ADC | TARE	Store cal constants to Flash RAM for either A/D calibration or those generated by the CAL:TARE command

SCPI Command Quick Reference

Command	Description
CALibration (cont.)	
:TARE (@<*ch_list*>)	Calibrate out system field wiring offsets
:RESet	Resets cal constants from CAL:TARE back to zero for all channels
:TARE?	Returns state of CAL:TARE operation (returns error codes or 0 for OK)
:VALue	
:RESistance <*ref_ohms*>	Send to instrument the value of just measured reference resistor
:VOLTage <*ref_volts*>	Send to instrument the value of just measured voltage reference
:ZERO?	Correct A/D for short term offset drift (returns error codes or 0 for OK)
DIAGnostic	
:CALibration	
:SETup	
[:MODE] 0 | 1	Set analog DAC output SCP calibration mode
[:MODE]?	Return current setting of DAC calibration mode
:TARe	
[:OTD]	
[:MODE] 0 | 1	Set mode to control OTD current during tare calibration
[:MODE]?	Return current setting of OTD control during tare calibration
:CHECksum?	Perform checksum on Flash RAM and return a '1' for OK, a '0' for corrupted or deleted memory contents
:COMMand	
:SCPWRITE <*reg_addr*>,<*reg_data*>	Writes values to SCP registers
:CUSTom	
:LINear <*table_ad_range*>,<*table_block*>,(@<*ch_list*>)	Loads linear custom EU table
:PIECewise <*table_ad_range*>,<*table_block*>,(@<*ch_list*>)	Loads piecewise custom EU table
:REFerence:TEMPerature	Puts the contents of the Reference Temperature Register into the FIFO
:INTerrupt[:LINe] <*intr_line*>	Sets the VXIbus interrupt line the module will use
:INTerrupt[:LINe]?	Returns the VXIbus interrupt line the module is using
:OTDetect[:STATe] ON | OFF, (@<*ch_list*>)	Controls "Open Transducer Detect" on SCPs contained in <*ch_list*>
:OTDetect[:STATe]? (@<*channel*>)	Returns current state of OTD on SCP containing <*channel*>
:QUERy	
:SCPREAD? <*reg_addr*>	Returns value from an SCP register
:VERSion?	Returns manufacturer, model, serial#, flash revision # and date e.g. AGILENT TECHNOLOGIES,E1419B,US34000478,A.04.00, Wed Jul 08 11:06:22 MDT 1994
FETCh?	Return readings stored in VME Memory (format set by FORM cmd)
FORMat	
[:DATA] <*format*>[, <*size*>]	Set format for response data from [SENSe:]DATA?
ASCii[, 7]	Seven bit ASCII format (not as fast as 32-bit because of conversion)
PACKed[, 64]	Same as REAL, 64 except NaN, +INF and -INF format compatible with Agilent BASIC
REAL[, 32]	IEEE 32-bit floating point (requires no conversion so is fastest)
REAL, 64	IEEE 64-bit floating point (not as fast as 32-bit because of conversion)
[:DATA]?	Returns format: REAL, +32 | REAL, +64 | PACK, +64 | ASC, +7
INITiate	Put module in Waiting for Trigger state (ready to make one scan)
INPut	
:FILTer	Control filter Signal Conditioning Plug-Ons
[:LPASs]	Sets the cutoff frequency for active filter SCPs
:FREQuency <*cutoff_freq*>,(@<*ch_list*>)	Returns the cutoff frequency for the channel specified (@<*channel*>)
:FREQuency? (@<*channel*>)	
[:STATe] ON | OFF	Sets the state of the SCP filters
[:STATe]? (@<*channel*>)	Return state of SCP filters
:GAIN <*chan_gain*>,(@<*ch_list*>)	Set gain for amplifier-per-channel SCP
:GAIN? (@<*channel*>)	Returns the channel's gain setting
:LOW <*wvolt_type*>,(@<*ch_list*>)	Controls the connection of input LO on a Strain Bridge (Opt. 21 SCP)

SCPI Command Quick Reference

Command	Description
:LOW? (@<*channel*>)	Returns the LO connection for the Strain Bridge at *channel*
:POLarity NORmal | INVerted,(@<*ch_list*>)	Sets input polarity on a digital SCP channel
:POLarity? (@<*channel*>)	Returns digital polarity currently set for <*channel*
MEMory	
:VME	
:ADDRess <*mem_address*>	Specify address of VME memory card to be used as reading storage
:ADDRess?	Returns address of VME memory card
:SIZE <*mem_size*>	Specify number of bytes of VME memory to be used to store readings
:SIZE?	Returns number of VME memory bytes allocate to reading storage
:STATe 1 | 0 | ON | OFF	Enable or disable reading storage in VME memory at INIT
:STATe?	Returns state of VME memory, 1=enabled, 0=disabled
OUTPut	
:CURRent	
:AMPLitude <*amplitude*>,(@<*ch_list*>)	Set amplitude of Current Source SCP channels
:AMPLitude? (@<*channel*>)	Returns the setting of the Current Source SCP channel
:STATe ON | OFF,(@<*ch_list*>)	Enable or disable the Current Source SCP channels
:STATe? (@<*channel*>)	Returns the state of the Current Source SCP channel
:POLarity NORmal | INVerted,(@<*ch_list*>)	Sets output polarity on a digital SCP channel
:POLarity? (@<*channel*>)	Returns digital polarity currently set for <*channel*>
:SHUNt ON | OFF,(@<*ch_list*>)	Adds shunt resistance to leg of Bridge Completion SCP channels
:SHUNt? (@<*channel*>)	Returns the state of the shunt resistor on Bridge Completion SCP channel
:TTLTrg	
:SOURce FTRigger | LIMit | SCPlugon | TRIGger	Sets the internal trigger source that can drive the VXIbus TTLTrg lines
:SOURce?	Returns the source of TTLTrg drive.
:TTLTrg<n>	
[:STATe] ON | OFF	When module triggered, source a VXIbus trigger on TTLTrg<n>
[:STATe]?	Returns whether the TTL trigger line specified by n is enabled
:TYPE PASSive | ACTive,(@<*ch_list*>)	sets the output drive type for a digital channel
:TYPE? (@<*channel*>)	Returns the output drive type for <*channel*>
:VOLTage	
:AMPLitude <*amplitude*>,(@<*ch_list*>)	Sets the voltage amplitude on Voltage Output and Strain SCPs
:AMPLitude? (@<*channel*>)	Returns the voltage amplitude setting
ROUTe	
:SEQuence	
:DEFine? AIN | AOUT | DIN | DOUT	Returns comma separated list of channels in analog I, O, dig I, O ch lists
:POINts? AIN | AOUT | DIN | DOUT	Returns number of channels defined in above lists.
SAMPle	
:TIMer <*num_samples*>,(@<*ch_list*>)	Sets number of samples that will be made on channels in <*ch_list*>
:TIMer? (@<*channel*>)	Returns number of samples that will be made on channels in <*ch_list*>
[SENSe:]	
CHANnel	
:SETTling <settle_time>,(@<*ch_list*>)	Sets the channel settling time for channels in *ch_list*
:SETTling? (@<*channel*>)	Returns the channel settling time for *channel*
DATA	
:CVTable? (@<*ch_list*>)	Returns elements of Current Value Table specified by *ch_list*
:RESet	Resets all entries in the Current Value Table to IEEE “Not-a-number”
:FIFO	
[:ALL]?	Fetch all readings until instrument returns to trigger idle state
:COUNt?	Returns the number of measurements in the FIFO buffer
:HALF?	Returns 1 if at least 32,768 readings are in FIFO, else returns 0
:HALF?	Fetch 32,768 readings (half the FIFO) when available
:MODE BLOCK | OVERwrite	Set FIFO mode.
:MODE?	Return the currently set FIFO mode
:PART? <*n_readings*>	Fetch *n_readings* from FIFO reading buffer when available
:RESet	Reset the FIFO counter to 0
FREQuency	
:APERture <*gate_time*>,(@<*ch_list*>)	Sets the gate time for frequency counting
:APERture? (@<*channel*>)	Returns the gate time set for frequency counting

SCPI Command Quick Reference

Command	Description
FUNCtion	Equate a function and range with groups of channels
:CONDition (@*<ch_list>*)	Sets function to sense digital state
:CUSTom [*<range>*,](@*<ch_list>*)	Links channels to custom EU conversion table loaded by DIAG:CUST:LIN or DIAG:CUST:PIEC commands
:REFerence [*<range>*,](@*<ch_list>*)	Links channels to custom reference temperature EU conversion table loaded by DIAG:CUST:PIEC commands
:TC *<type>*,[*<range>*,](@*<ch_list>*)	Links channels to custom temperature EU conversion table loaded by DIAG:CUST:PIEC and performs ref temp compensation for *<type>*
:FREQuency (@*<ch_list>*)	Configure channels to measure frequency
:RESistance *<excite_current>*,[*<range>*,](@*<ch_list>*)	Configure channels to sense resistance measurements
:STRain	Links measurement channels as having read bridge voltage from:
:FBENding [*<range>*,](@*<ch_list>*)	Full BENding
:FBPoisson [*<range>*,](@*<ch_list>*)	Full Bending Poisson
:FPOisson [*<range>*,](@*<ch_list>*)	Full POisson
:HBENding [*<range>*,](@*<ch_list>*)	Half BENding
:HPOisson [*<range>*,](@*<ch_list>*)	Half Poisson
[:QUARter] [*<range>*,](@*<ch_list>*)	QUARter
RTD TCouple, CUST | E | EEXT | J | K | N | S | T THERmistor 2250 | 5000 | 10000	85 | 92 thermocouples thermistors
:TEMPerature *<sensor_type>*,*<sub_type>*, [*<range>*,](@*<ch_list>*)	Configure channels for temperature measurement types above: excitation current comes from Current Output SCP.
:TOTalize (@*<ch_list>*)	Configure channels to count digital state transitions
:VOLTage[:DC] [*<range>*,](@*<ch_list>*)	Configure channels for dc voltage measurement
RTD 85 | 92 THERmistor,5000	RTDs thermistors
:REFerence *<sensor_type>*,*<sub_type>*,[*<range>*,](@*<ch_list>*)	Configure channel for reference temperature measurements above:
:CHANnels (@*<ref_channel>*),(@*<ch_list>*)	Groups reference temperature channel with TC measurement channels
:TEMPerature *<degrees_c>*	Specifies the temperature of a controlled temperature reference junction
:STRain	
:EXCitation *<excite_v>*,(@*<ch_list>*)	Specifies the Excitation Voltage by channel to the strain EU conversion
:STRain	
:EXCitation *<excite_v>*,(@*<ch_list>*)	Specifies the Excitation Voltage by channel to the strain EU conversion
:EXCitation? (@*<channel>*)	Returns the Excitation Voltage set for *<channel>*
:GFACtor *<gage_factor>*,(@*<ch_list>*)	Specifies the Gage Factor by channel to the strain EU conversion
:GFACtor? (@*<channel>*)	Returns the Gage Factor set for *<channel>*
:POISson *<poisson_ratio>*,(@*<ch_list>*)	Specifies the Poisson Ratio by channel to the strain EU conversion
[SENSe:]STRAin (continued)	
:POISson? (@*<channel>*)	Returns the Poisson Ratio set for *<channel>*
:UNSTrained *<unstrained_v>*,(@*<ch_list>*)	Specifies the Unstrained Voltage by channel to the strain EU conversion
:UNSTrained? (@*<channel>*)	Returns the Unstrained Voltage set for *<channel>*
SOURce	
:FM	
[:STATe] 1 | 0 | ON | OFF,(@*<ch_list>*)	Configure digital channels to output frequency modulated signal
[:STATe]? (@*<channel>*)	Returns state of channels for FM output
:FUNCtion	
[:SHAPe]	
:CONDition (@*<ch_list>*)	Configures channels to output static digital levels

SCPI Command Quick Reference

Command	Description
:PULSe (@<*ch_list*>)	Configures channels to output digital pulse(s)
:SQUare (@<*ch_list*>)	Configures channels to output 50/50 duty cycle digital pulse train
:PULM	
:STATe 1 | 0 | ON | OFF,(@<*ch_list*>)	Configure digital channels to output pulse width modulated signal
:STATe? (@<*channel*>)	Returns state of channels for PW modulated output
:PERiod <*period*>,(@<*ch_list*>)	Sets pulse period for PW modulated signals
:PERiod? ,(@<*channel*>)	Returns pulse period for PW modulated signals
:WIDTh <*width*>,(@<*ch_list*>)	Sets pulse width for FM modulated signals
:WIDTh? (@<*channel*>)	Returns pulse width setting for FM modulated signals
STATus	
:OPERation	Operation Status Group: Bit assignments; 0=Calibrating, 4=Measuring, 8=Scan Complete, 10=FIFO Half Full, 11=algorithm interrupt
:CONDition?	Returns state of Operation Status signals
:ENABle <*enable_mask*>	Bits set to 1 enable status events to be summarized into Status Byte
:ENABle?	Returns the decimal weighted sum of bits set in the Enable register
[:EVENt]?	Returns weighted sum of bits that represent Operation status events
:NTRansition <*transition_mask*>	Sets mask bits to enable pos. Condition Reg. transitions to Event reg
:NTRansition?	Returns positive transition mask value
:PTRansition <*transition_mask*>	Sets mask bits to enable neg. Condition Reg. transitions to Event reg
:PTRansition?	Returns negative transition mask value
:PRESet	Presets both the Operation and Questionable Enable registers to 0
:QUEStionable	Questionable Data Status Group: Bit assignments; 8=Calibration Lost, 9=Trigger Too Fast, 10=FIFO Overflowed, 11=Over voltage, 12=VME Memory Overflow, 13=Setup Changed.
:CONDition?	Returns state of Questionable Status signals
:ENABle <*enable_mask*>	Bits set to 1 enable status events to be summarized into Status Byte
:ENABle?	Returns the decimal weighted sum of bits set in the Enable register
[:EVENt]?	Returns weighted sum of bits that represent Questionable Data events
:NTRansition <*transition_mask*>	Sets mask bits to enable pos. Condition Reg. transitions to Event reg
:NTRansition?	Returns positive transition mask value
:PTRansition <*transition_mask*>	Sets mask bits to enable neg. Condition Reg. transitions to Event reg
:PTRansition?	Returns negative transition mask value
SYSTem	
:CTYPe? (@<*channel*>)	Returns the identification of the SCP at *channel*
:ERRor?	Returns one element of the error queue “0" if no errors
:VERSion?	Returns the version of SCPI this instrument complies with
TRIGger	
:COUNt <*trig_count*>	Specify the number of trigger events that will be accepted
:COUNt?	Returns the current trigger count setting
[:IMMediate]	Triggers instrument when TRIG:SOUR is TIMer or HOLD (same as *TRG and IEEE 488.1 GET commands.
:SOURce BUS | EXT | HOLD | IMM | SCP | TIMer | TTLTrg<n>	Specify the source of instrument triggers
:SOURce?	Returns the current trigger source
:TIMer	Sets the interval between scan triggers when TRIG:SOUR is TIMer
[:PERiod] <*trig_interval*>	Sets the interval between scan triggers when TRIG:SOUR is TIMer
[:PERiod]?	Returns setting of trigger timer

IEEE-488.2 Common Command Quick Reference			
Category	Command	Title	Description
Calibration	*CAL?	Calibrate	Performs internal calibration on all 64 channels out to the terminal module connector. Returns error codes or 0 for OK
Internal Operation	*IDN?	Identification	Returns the response: AGILENT TECHNOLOGIES,E1419B,*<serial#>,<driver rev#>*
	*RST	Reset	Resets all scan lists to zero length and stops scan triggering. Status registers and output queue are unchanged.
	*TST?	Self Test	Performs self test. Returns 0 to indicate test passed.
Status Reporting	*CLS	Clear Status	Clears all status event registers and so their status summary bits (except the MAV bit).
	*ESE <*mask*>	Event Status Enable	Set Standard Event Status Enable register bits mask.
	*ESE?	Event Status Enable query	Return current setting of Standard Event Status Enable register.
	*ESR?	Event Status Register query	Return Standard Event Status Register contents.
	*SRE <*mask*>	Service Request Enable	Set Service Request Enable register bit mask.
	*SRE?	Service Request Enable query	Return current setting of the Service Request Enable register.
	*STB?	Read Status Byte query	Return current Status Byte value.
Macros	*DMC <*name*>,<*cmd_data*>	Define Macro Command	Assigns one or a sequence of commands to a macro.
	*EMC 1 | 0	Enable Macro Command	Enable/Disable defined macro commands.
	*EMC?	Enable Macros query	Returns 1 for macros enabled, 0 for disabled.
	*GMC? <*name*>	Get Macro query	Returns command sequence for named macro.
	*LMC?	Learn Macro query	Returns comma-separated list of defined macro names
	*PMC	Purge Macro Commands	Purges all macro commands
	*RMC <*name*>	Remove Individual Macro	Removes named macro command.
Synchronization	*OPC	Operation Complete	Standard Event register's Operation Complete bit will be 1 when all pending device operations have been finished.
	*OPC?	Operation Complete query	Places an ASCII 1 in the output queue when all pending operations have finished.
	*TRG	Trigger	Trigger s module when TRIG:SOUR is HOLD.
	*WAI	Wait to Complete	

Appendix A
Specifications

Power Requirements (with no SCPs installed)

I_{PM} = Peak Module Current

I_{DM} = Dynamic Module Current

+5 V		+12 V		-12 V		+24 V		-24 V		-5.2 V	
I_{PM}	I_{DM}	I_{PM}	I_{DM}	I_{PM}	I_{DM}	I_{PM}	I_{DM}	I_{PM}	I_{DM}	I_{PM}	I_{DM}
1.0	0.02	0.06	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.1	0.01	0.1	0.01	0.15	0.01

Cooling Requirements

Average watts/slot	Δ Pressure (mm H_2O)	Air Flow (liters/s)
14	0.08	0.08

Power Available for SCPs (See VXI Catalog or SCP manuals for SCP current)

1.0 A ± 24 V, 3.5 A 5 V

Measurement Ranges

dc volts	(VT1501A or VT1502A) ± 62.5 mV to ± 16 V Full Scale
Temperature	Thermocouples - -200 to +1700 °C Thermistors - (Opt 15 required) -80 to +160 °C RTD's - (Opt 15 required) -200 to +850 °C
Resistance	(VT1505A with VT1501A) 512 Ω to 131 kΩ FS
Strain	25,000 $\mu\varepsilon$ or limit of linear range of strain gage

Measurement Resolution

16 bits (including sign)

Trigger Timer and Sample Timer Accuracy

100 ppm (0.01%) from -10 °C to +70 °C

External Trigger Input

TTL compatible input. Negative true edge triggered except first trigger will occur if external trigger input is held low when module is INITiated. Minimum pulse width 100 ns. Since each trigger starts a complete scan of two or more channel readings, maximum trigger rate depends on module configuration.

Maximum Input Voltage
(Normal mode plus common mode)

With Direct Input, Passive Filter or Amplifier SCPs:
Operating: < ± 16 V_{PEAK} Damage level: > ± 42 V_{PEAK}
With VT1513A Divide by 16 Attenuator SCP:
Operating: < ± 60 V dc, < ± 42 V_{PEAK}

Maximum Common Mode Voltage

With Direct Input, Passive Filter or Amplifier SCPs:
Operating: < ± 16 V_{PEAK} Damage level: > ± 42 V_{PEAK}
With VT1513A Divide by 16 Attenuator SCP:
Operating: < ± 60 V dc, < ± 42 V peak

Common Mode Rejection

0 to 60 Hz -105 dB

Input Impedance

greater than 90 MΩ differential
(1 MΩ with VT1513A Attenuator)

On-Board Current Source

122 μA ± 0.02%, with ± 17 volts Compliance

Maximum Tare Cal Offset

SCP Gain = 1 (Maximum tare offset depends on A/D range and SCP gain)

A/D range ±V F.Scale	16	4	1	0.25	0.0625
Max Offset	3.2213	0.82101	0.23061	0.07581	0.03792

Notice: Published specifications indicate accuracy degradation when subjected to radiated fields.

The following specifications reflect the performance of the VT1419A with the VT1501A Direct Input Signal Conditioning Plug-On. The performance of the VT1419A with other SCPs is found in the Specifications section of that SCP's manual.

Measurement Accuracy dc volts

(90 days) 23 °C ± 1 °C (with *CAL? done after 1 hr warm up and CAL:ZERO? within 5 min.).
NOTE: If autoranging is ON:
for readings < 3.8 V, add ±0.02% to linearity specifications.
for readings ≥ 3.8 V, add ±0.05% to linearity specifications.

A/D range ± V F.Scale	Linearity % of reading	Offset Error	Noise 3 sigma	Noise* 3 sigma
0.0625	0.01%	5.3 μV	18 μV	8 μV
0.25	0.01%	10.3 μV	45 μV	24 μV
1	0.01%	31 μV	110 μV	90 μV
4	0.01%	122 μV	450 μV	366 μV
16	0.01%	488 μV	1.8 mV	1.5 mV

Temperature Coefficients: Gain - 10ppm/°C. Offset - (0 - 40 °C) 0.14 μV/°C, (40 - 55 °C) 0.8 μV+0.38 μV/°C

Temperature Accuracy

The following pages have temperature accuracy graphs that include instrument and firmware linearization errors. The linearization algorithm used is based on the IPTS-68(78) standard transducer curves. Add the transducer accuracy to determine total measurement error.

The thermocouple graphs on the following pages include only the errors due to measuring the voltage output of the thermocouple, as well as the algorithm errors due to converting the thermocouple voltage to temperature. To this error must be added the error due to measuring the reference junction temperature with an RTD or a 5k thermistor. See the graphs for the RTD or the 5k thermistor to determine this additional error. Also, the errors due to gradients across the isothermal reference must be added. If an external isothermal reference panel is used, consult the manufacturer's specifications. If VXI Technology termination blocks are used as the isothermal reference, see the notes below.

NOTE

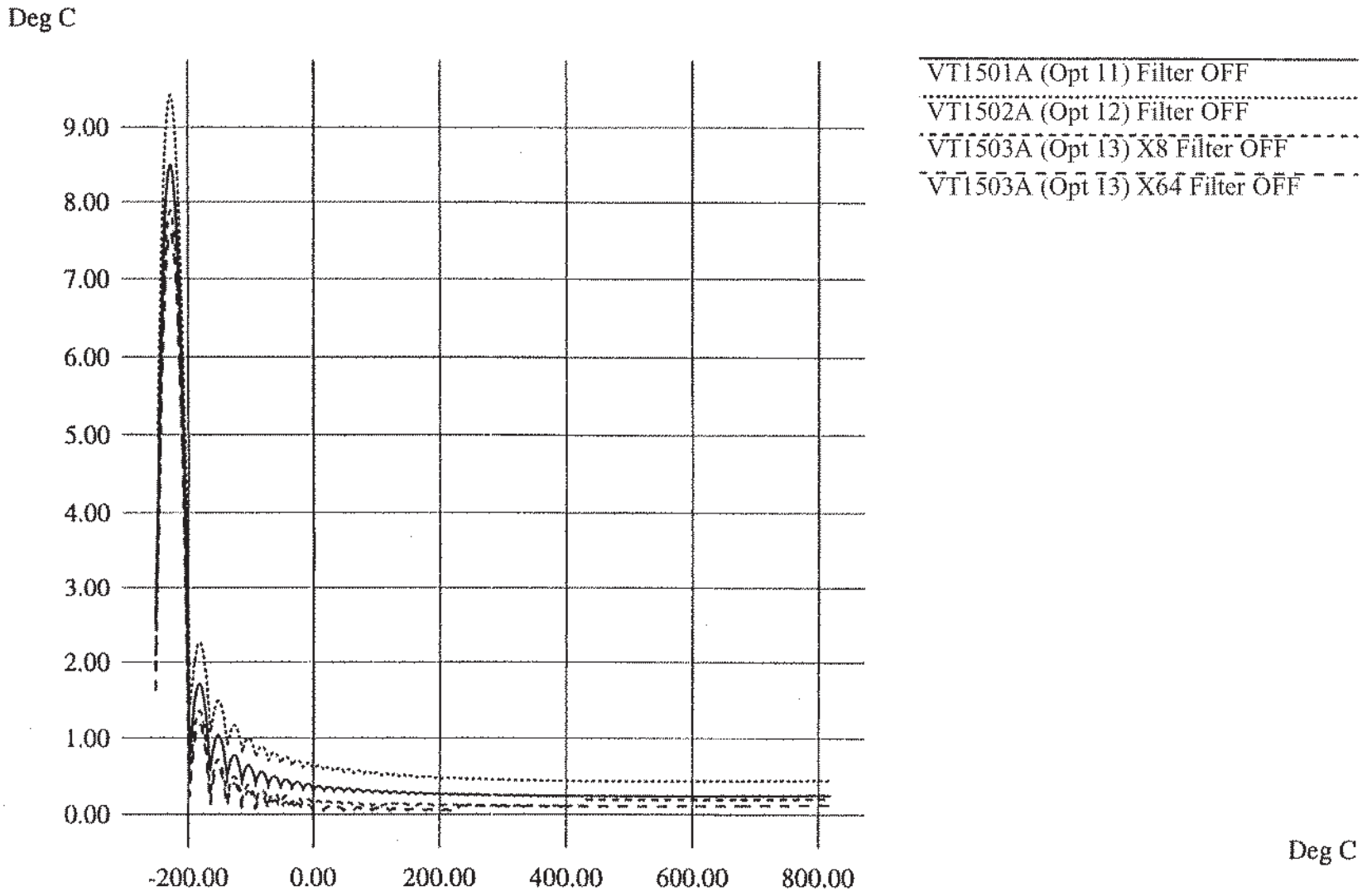
1) When using the Terminal Module as the isothermal reference, add ±0.6 °C to the thermocouple accuracy specs to account for temperature gradients across the Terminal Module. The ambient temperature of the air surrounding the Terminal Module must be within ±2 °C of the temperature of the inlet cooling air to the VXI mainframe.

2) When using the VT1586A Rack-Mount Terminal Panel as the isothermal reference, add ±0.2 °C to the thermocouple accuracy specs to account for temperature gradients across the VT1586A. The VT1586A should be mounted in the bottom part of the rack, below and away from other heat sources for best performance.

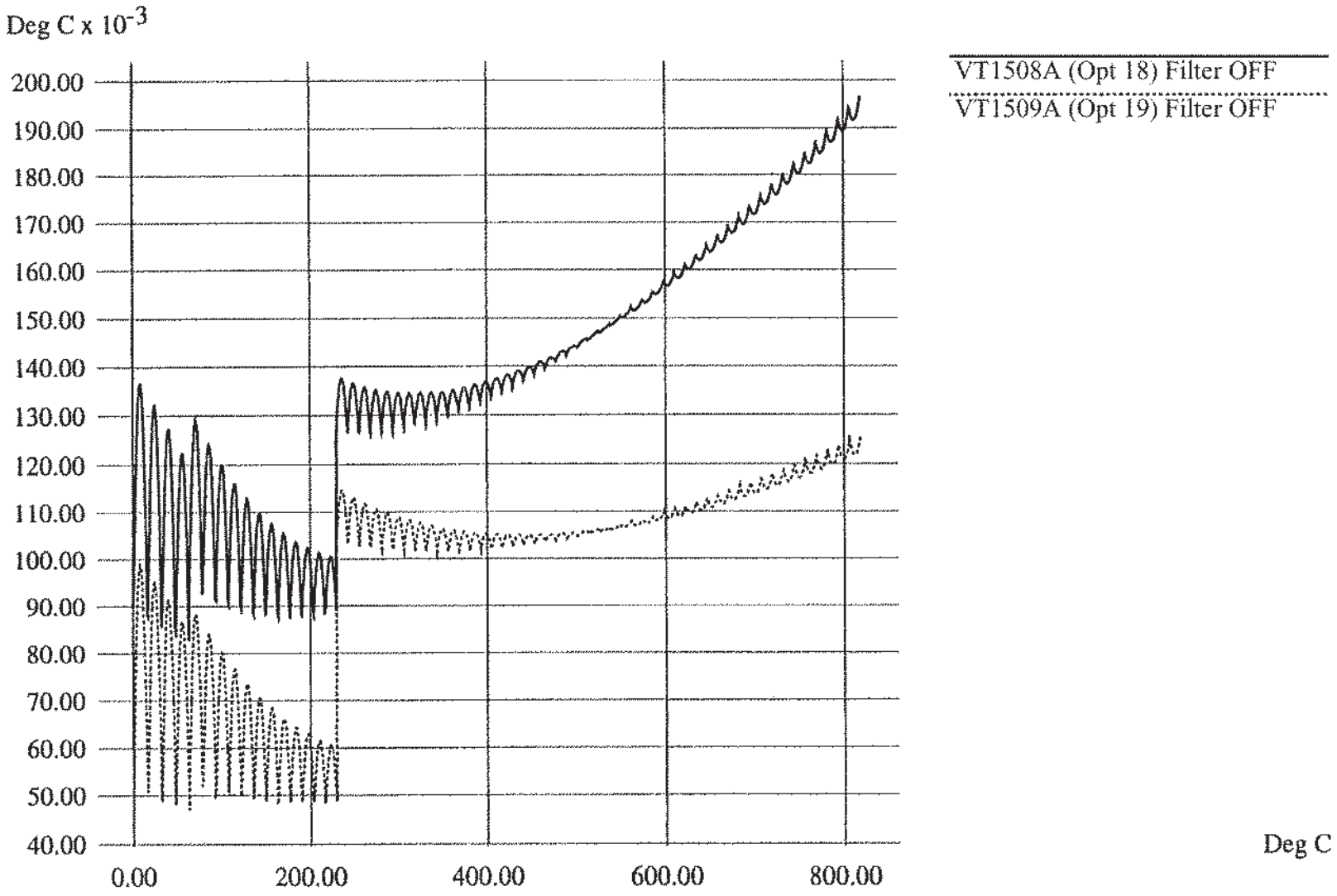
The temperature graphs are found on the following pages:

- Thermocouple Type E (-200 to 800 °C) 332,333
- Thermocouple Type E (0 to 800 °C) 334,335
- Thermocouple Type EEXtended 336,337
- Thermocouple Type J 338,339
- Thermocouple Type K 340
- Thermocouple Type R 341,342
- Thermocouple Type S 343,295
- Thermocouple Type T 345,346
- Reference Thermistor 5k 347,348
- Reference RTD 100 Ω 349
- RTD 100 Ω 350,351
- Thermistor 2250 Ω 352,353
- Thermistor 5 kΩ 354,355
- Thermistor 10 kΩ 356,357

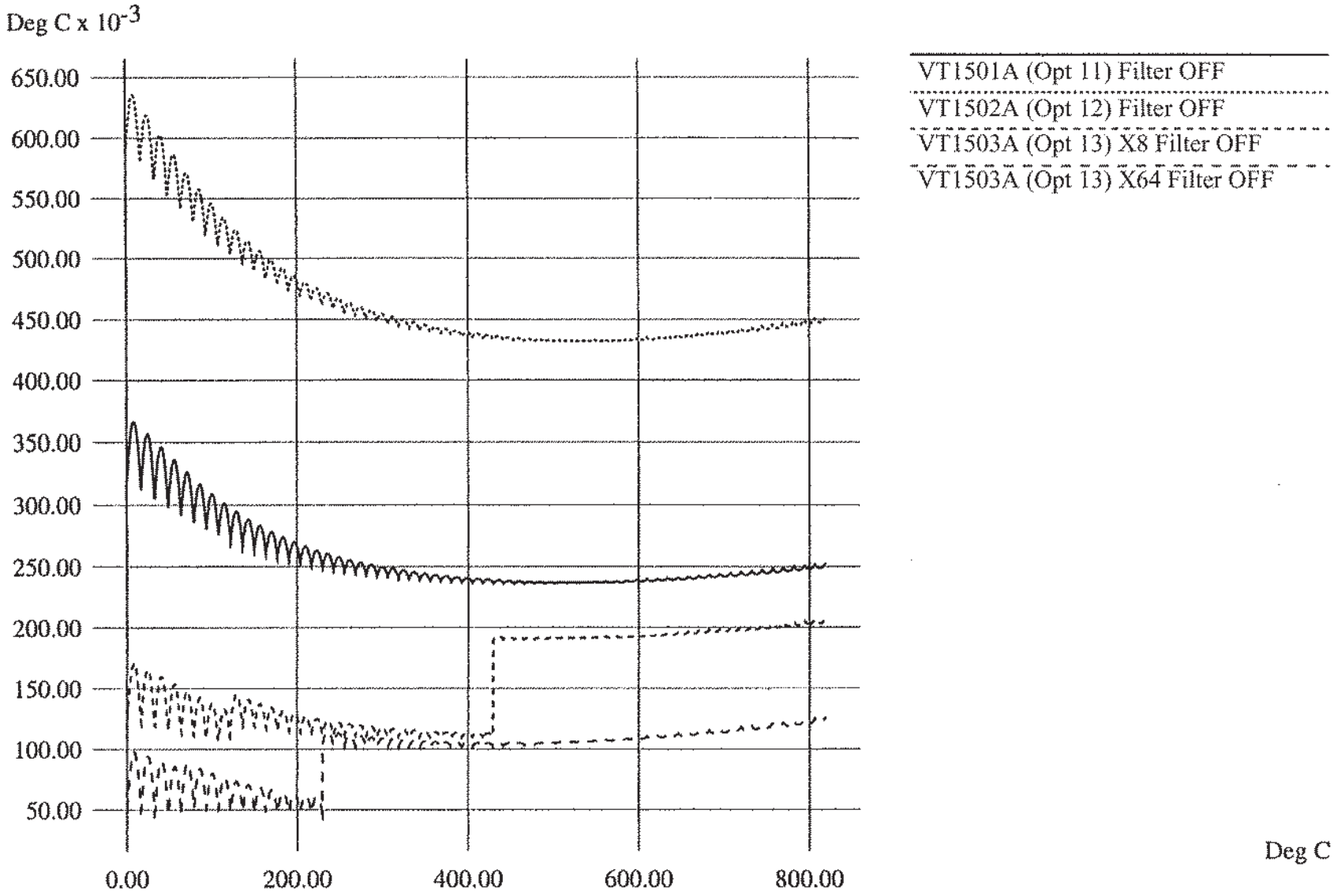
Type E


Deg C
9.00
8.00
7.00
6.00
5.00
4.00
3.00
2.00
1.00
0.00
-200.00
0.00
200.00
400.00
600.00
800.00
VT1501A (Opt 11) Filter OFF
VT1502A (Opt 12) Filter OFF
VT1503A (Opt 13) X8 Filter OFF
VT1503A (Opt 13) X64 Filter OFF
Deg C

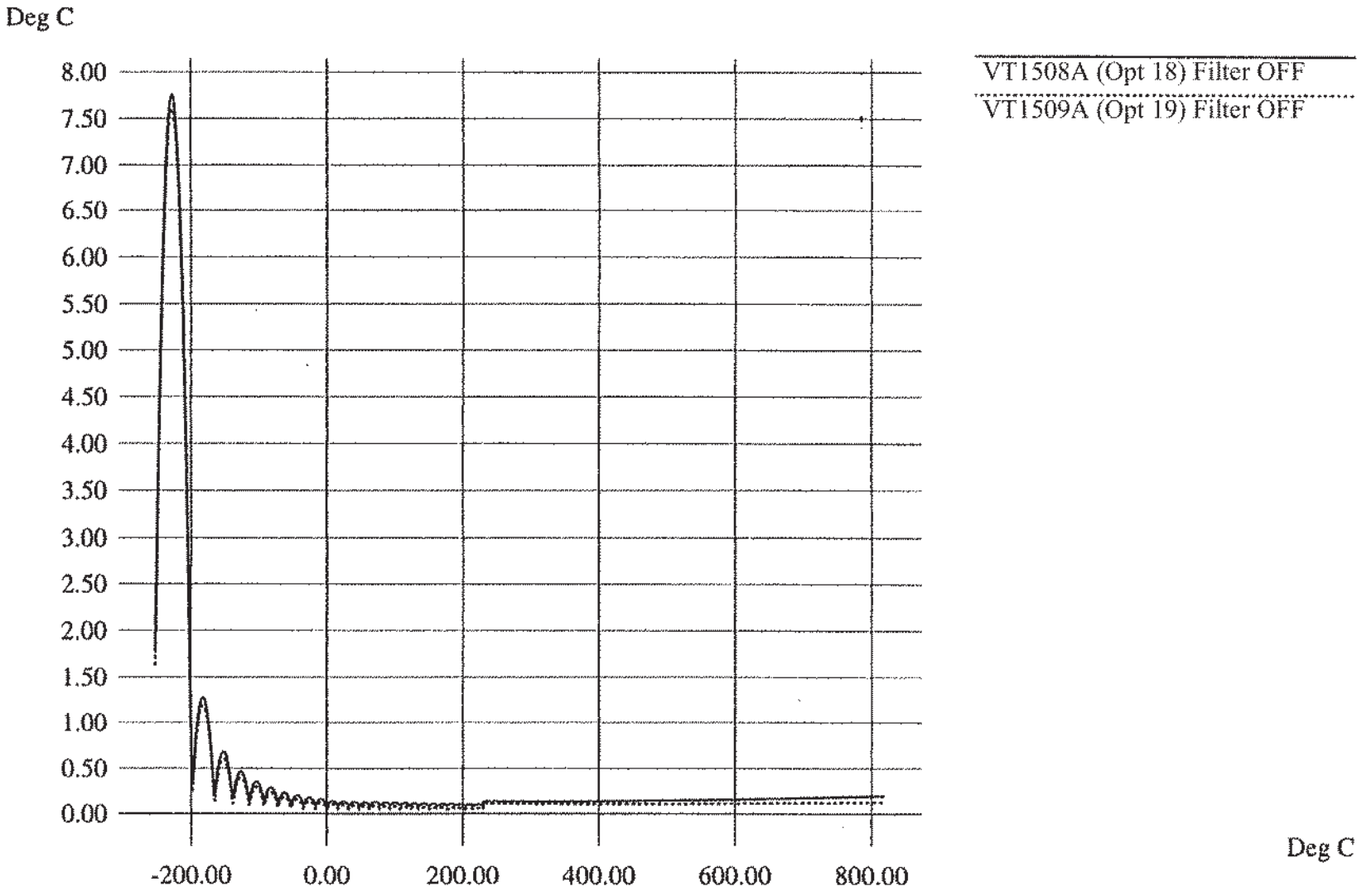
Type E


Deg C x 10^{-3}
200.00
190.00
180.00
170.00
160.00
150.00
140.00
130.00
120.00
110.00
100.00
90.00
80.00
70.00
60.00
50.00
40.00
0.00
200.00
400.00
600.00
800.00
VT1508A (Opt 18) Filter OFF
VT1509A (Opt 19) Filter OFF
Deg C

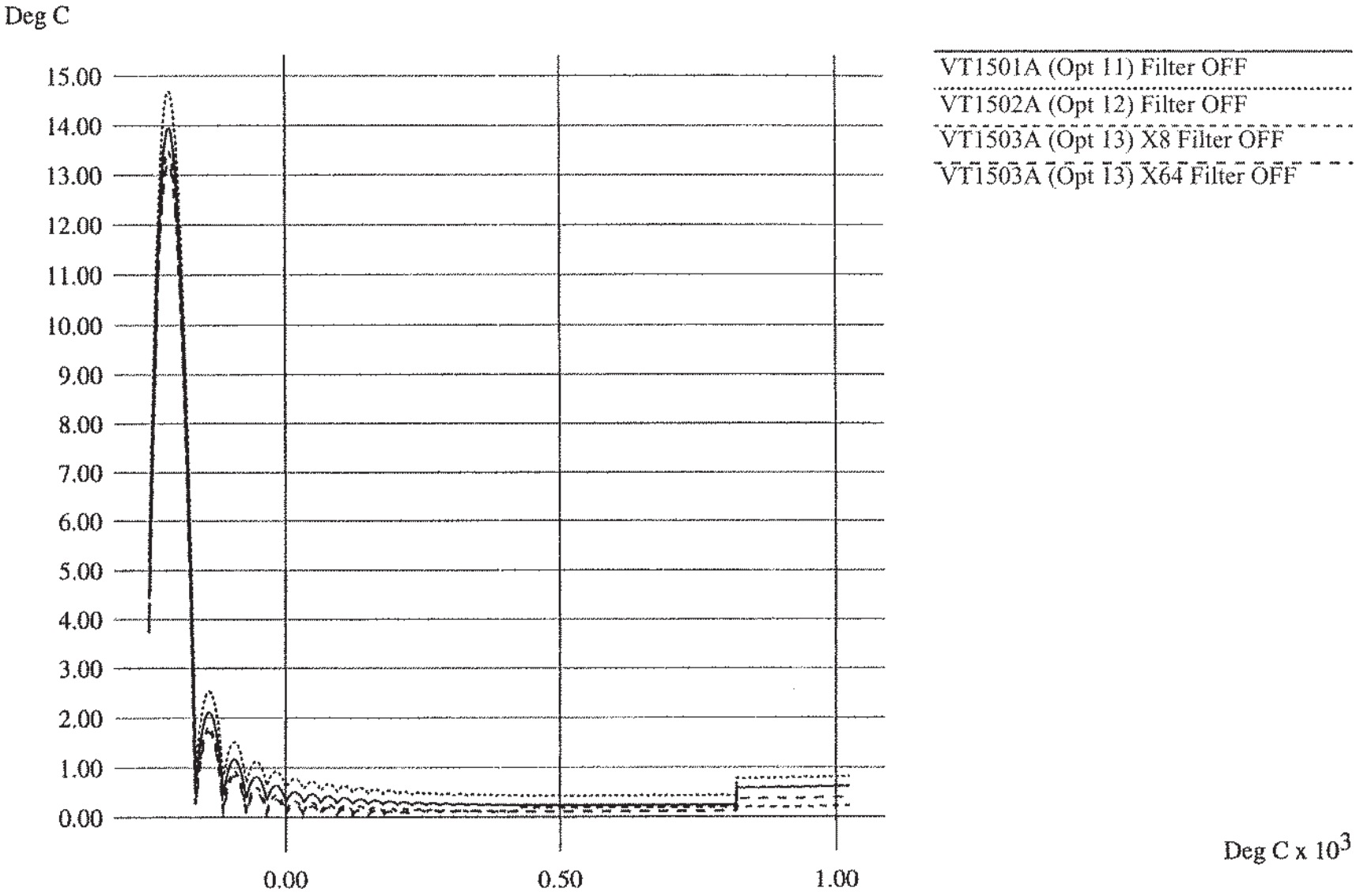
Type E


Deg C x 10^{-3}
650.00
600.00
550.00
500.00
450.00
400.00
350.00
300.00
250.00
200.00
150.00
100.00
50.00
0.00
200.00
400.00
600.00
800.00
VT1501A (Opt 11) Filter OFF
VT1502A (Opt 12) Filter OFF
VT1503A (Opt 13) X8 Filter OFF
VT1503A (Opt 13) X64 Filter OFF
Deg C

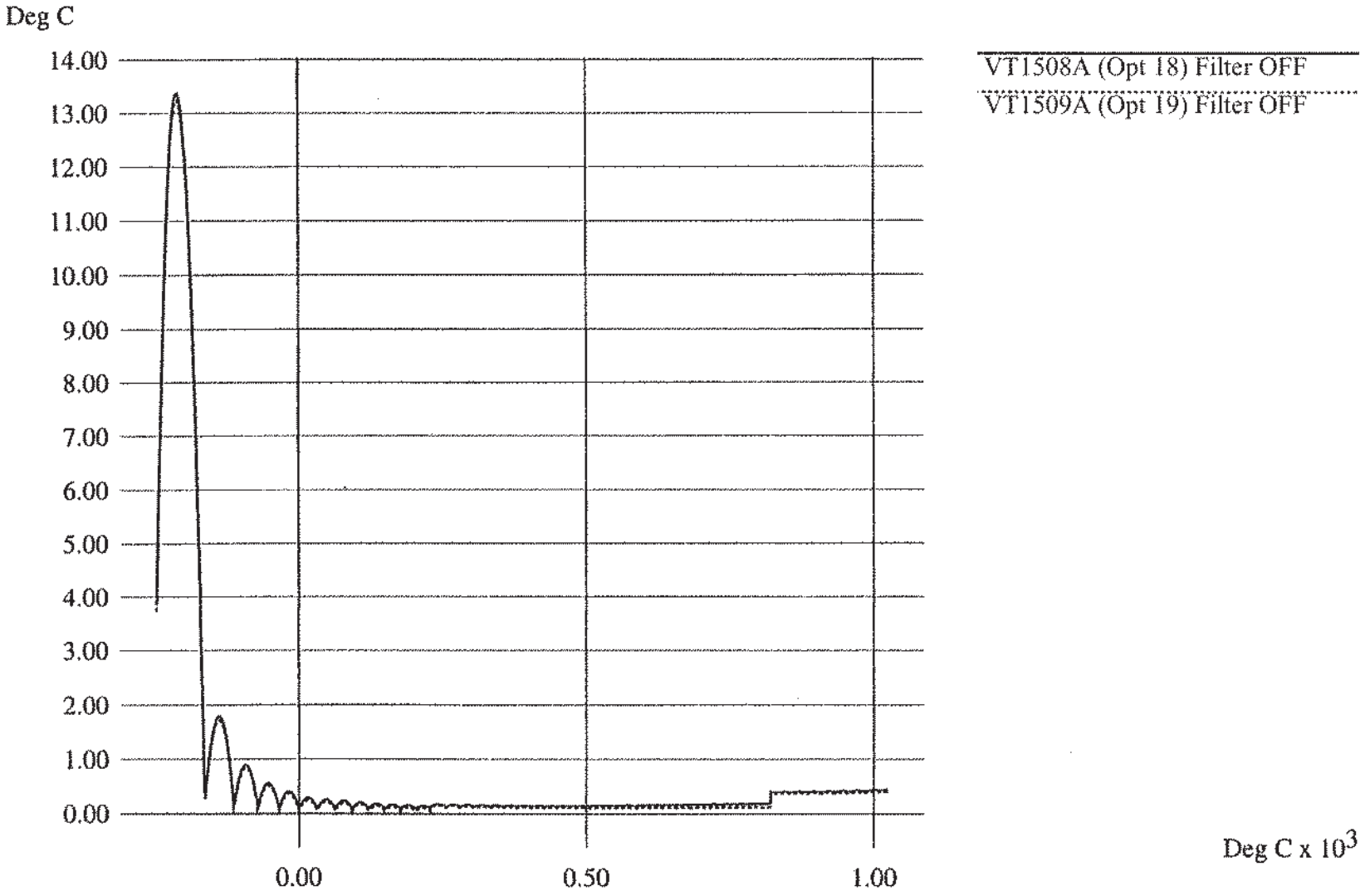
Type E


Deg C
8.00
7.50
7.00
6.50
6.00
5.50
5.00
4.50
4.00
3.50
3.00
2.50
2.00
1.50
1.00
0.50
0.00
-200.00
0.00
200.00
400.00
600.00
800.00
VT1508A (Opt 18) Filter OFF
VT1509A (Opt 19) Filter OFF
Deg C

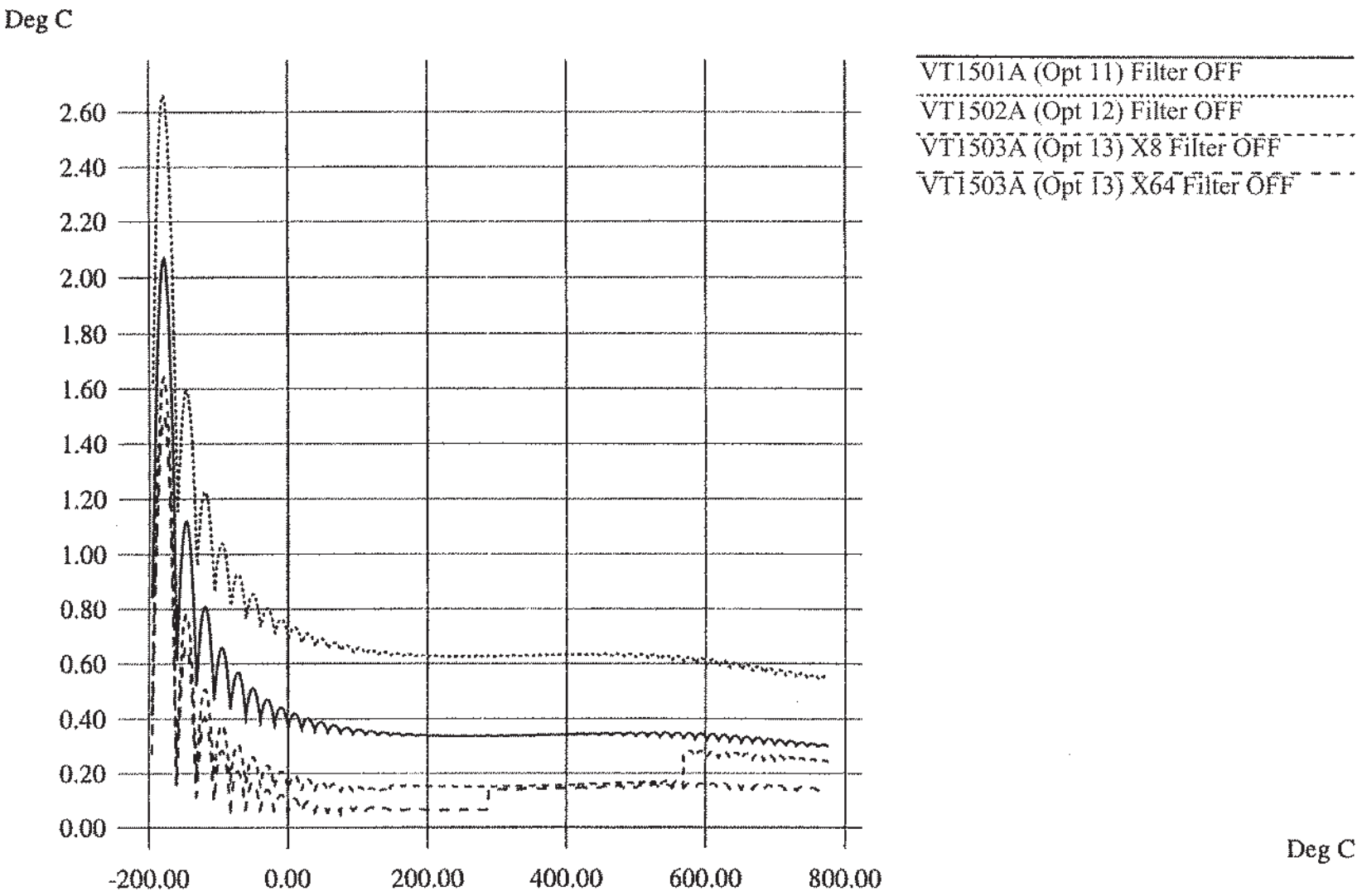
Type E Extended



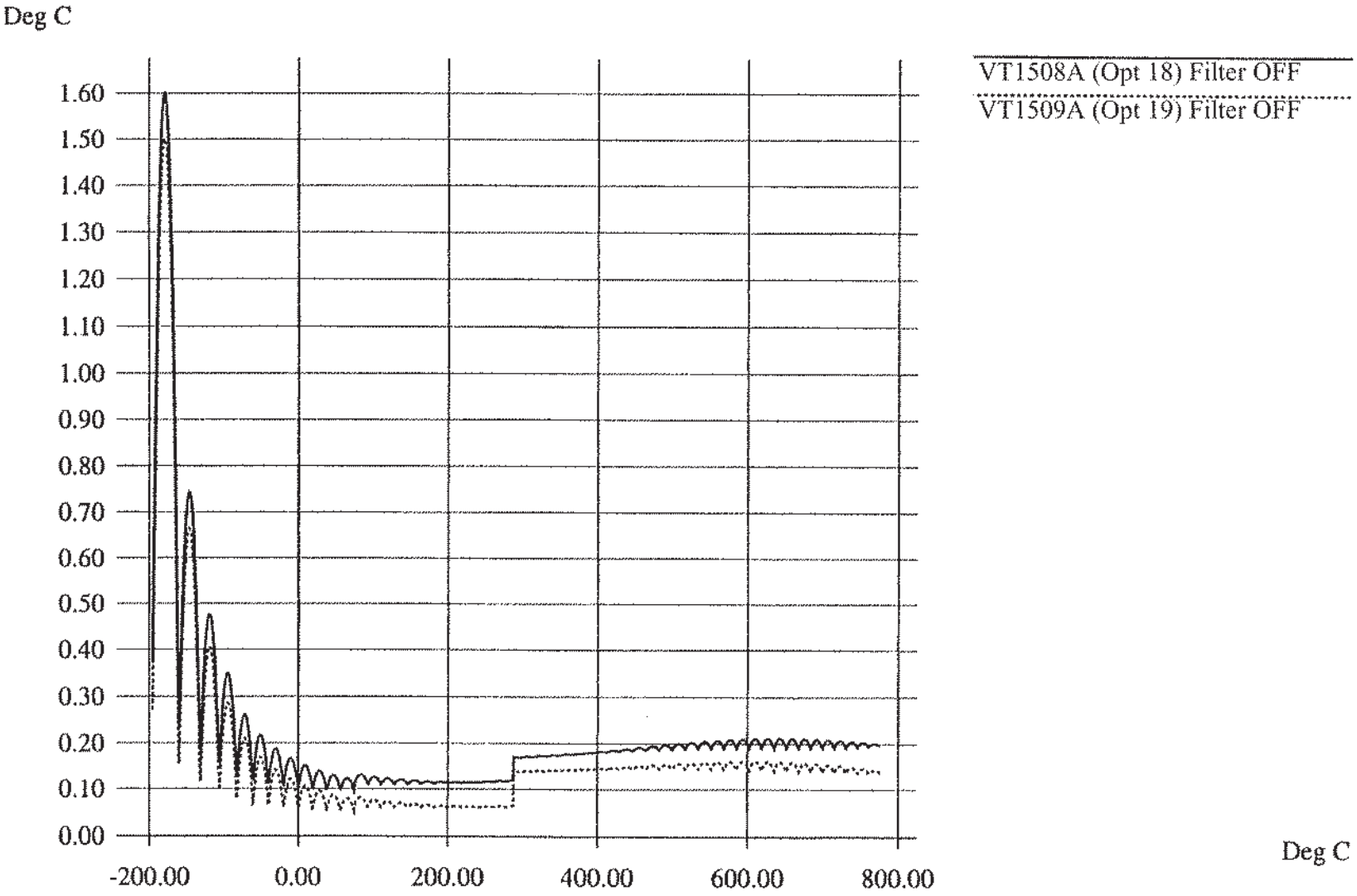
Type E Extended



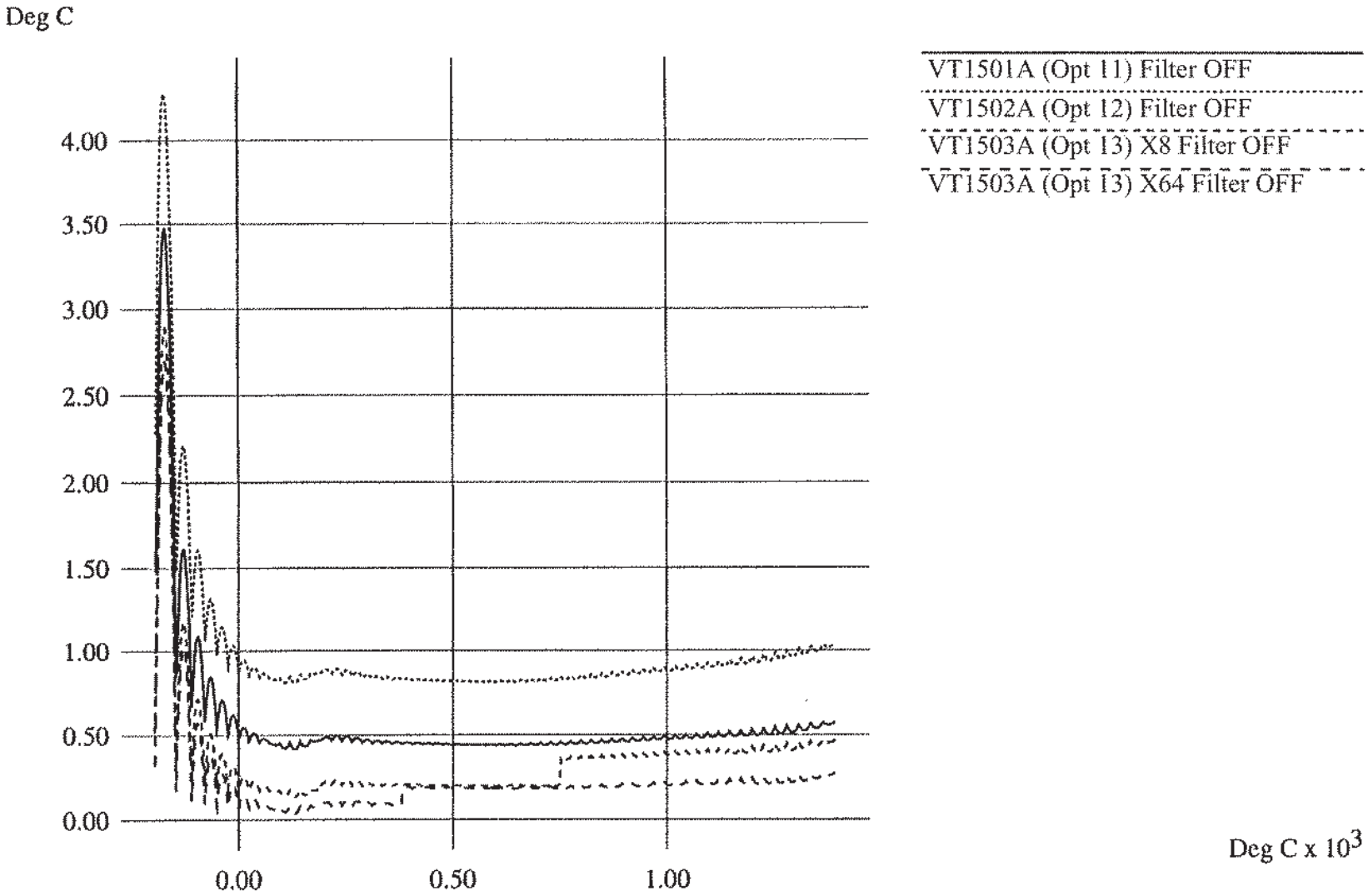
Type J


Deg C
2.60
2.40
2.20
2.00
1.80
1.60
1.40
1.20
1.00
0.80
0.60
0.40
0.20
0.00
-200.00
0.00
200.00
400.00
600.00
800.00
VT1501A (Opt 11) Filter OFF
VT1502A (Opt 12) Filter OFF
VT1503A (Opt 13) X8 Filter OFF
VT1503A (Opt 13) X64 Filter OFF
Deg C

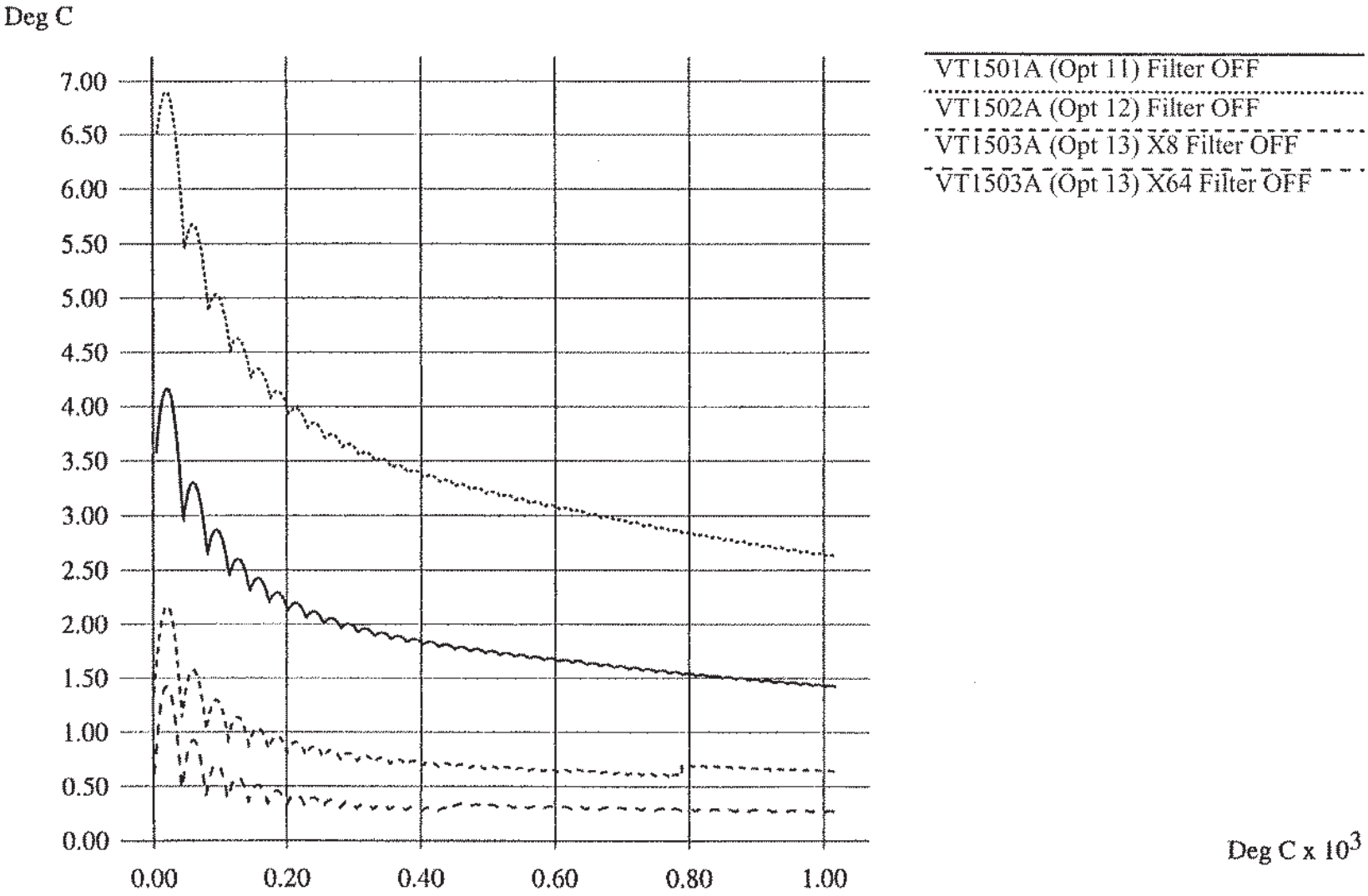
Type J


Deg C
1.60
1.50
1.40
1.30
1.20
1.10
1.00
0.90
0.80
0.70
0.60
0.50
0.40
0.30
0.20
0.10
0.00
-200.00
0.00
200.00
400.00
600.00
800.00
VT1508A (Opt 18) Filter OFF
VT1509A (Opt 19) Filter OFF
Deg C

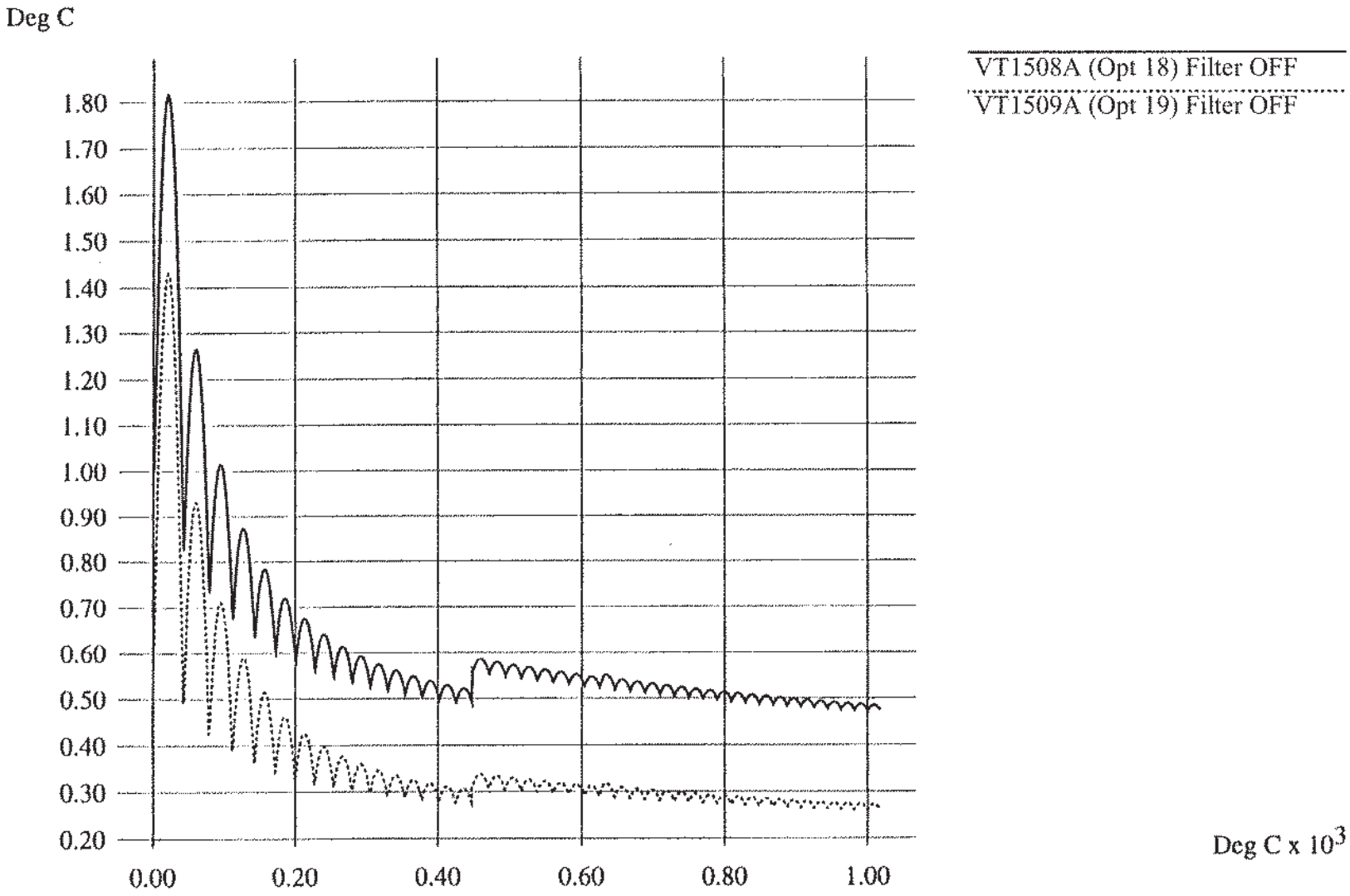
Type K


Deg C
4.00
3.50
3.00
2.50
2.00
1.50
1.00
0.50
0.00
0.00
0.50
1.00
VT1501A (Opt 11) Filter OFF
VT1502A (Opt 12) Filter OFF
VT1503A (Opt 13) X8 Filter OFF
VT1503A (Opt 13) X64 Filter OFF
Deg C x 10^3

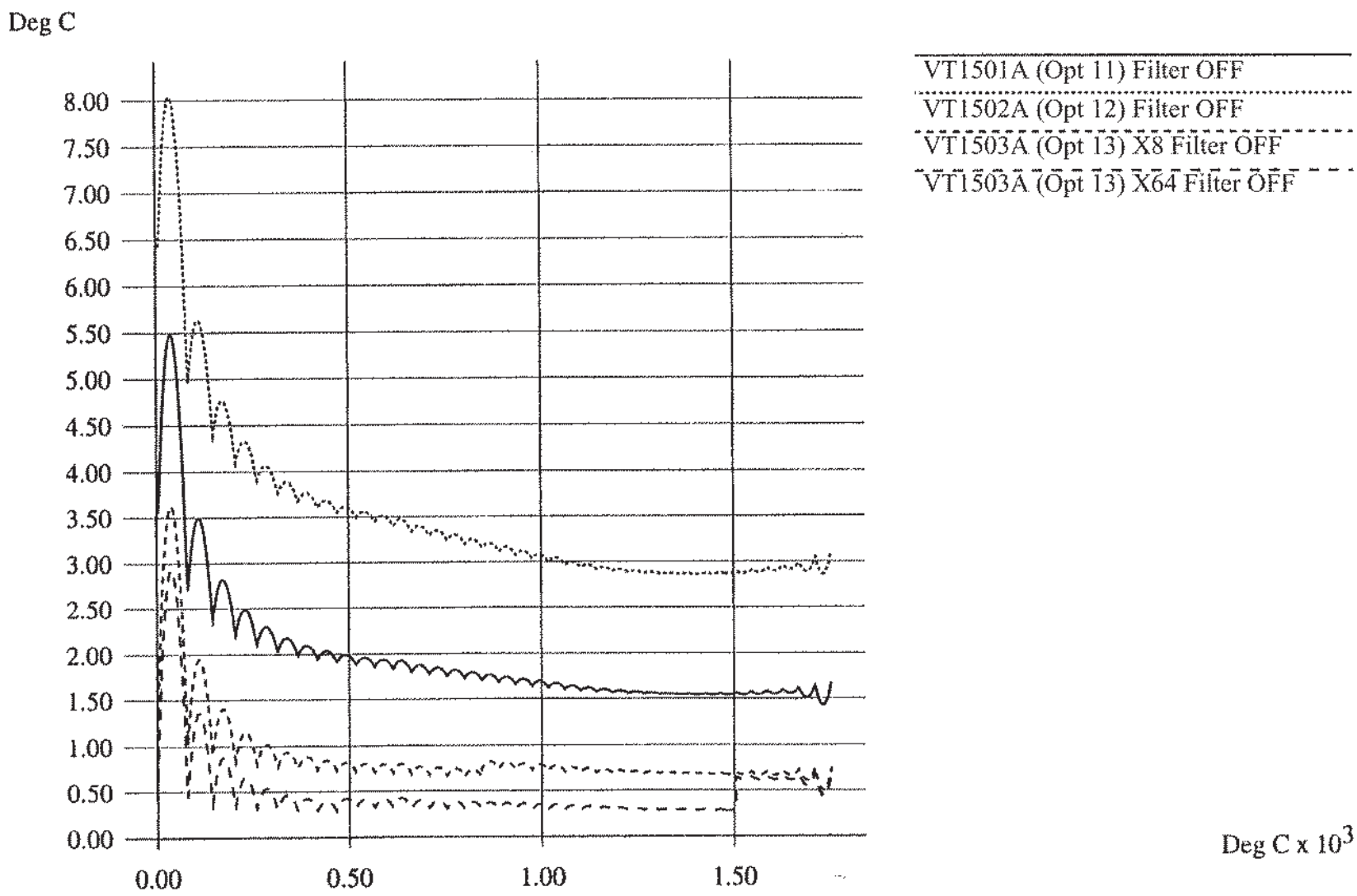
Type R


Deg C
7.00
6.50
6.00
5.50
5.00
4.50
4.00
3.50
3.00
2.50
2.00
1.50
1.00
0.50
0.00
0.00
0.20
0.40
0.60
0.80
1.00
VT1501A (Opt 11) Filter OFF
VT1502A (Opt 12) Filter OFF
VT1503A (Opt 13) X8 Filter OFF
VT1503A (Opt 13) X64 Filter OFF
Deg C x 10^3

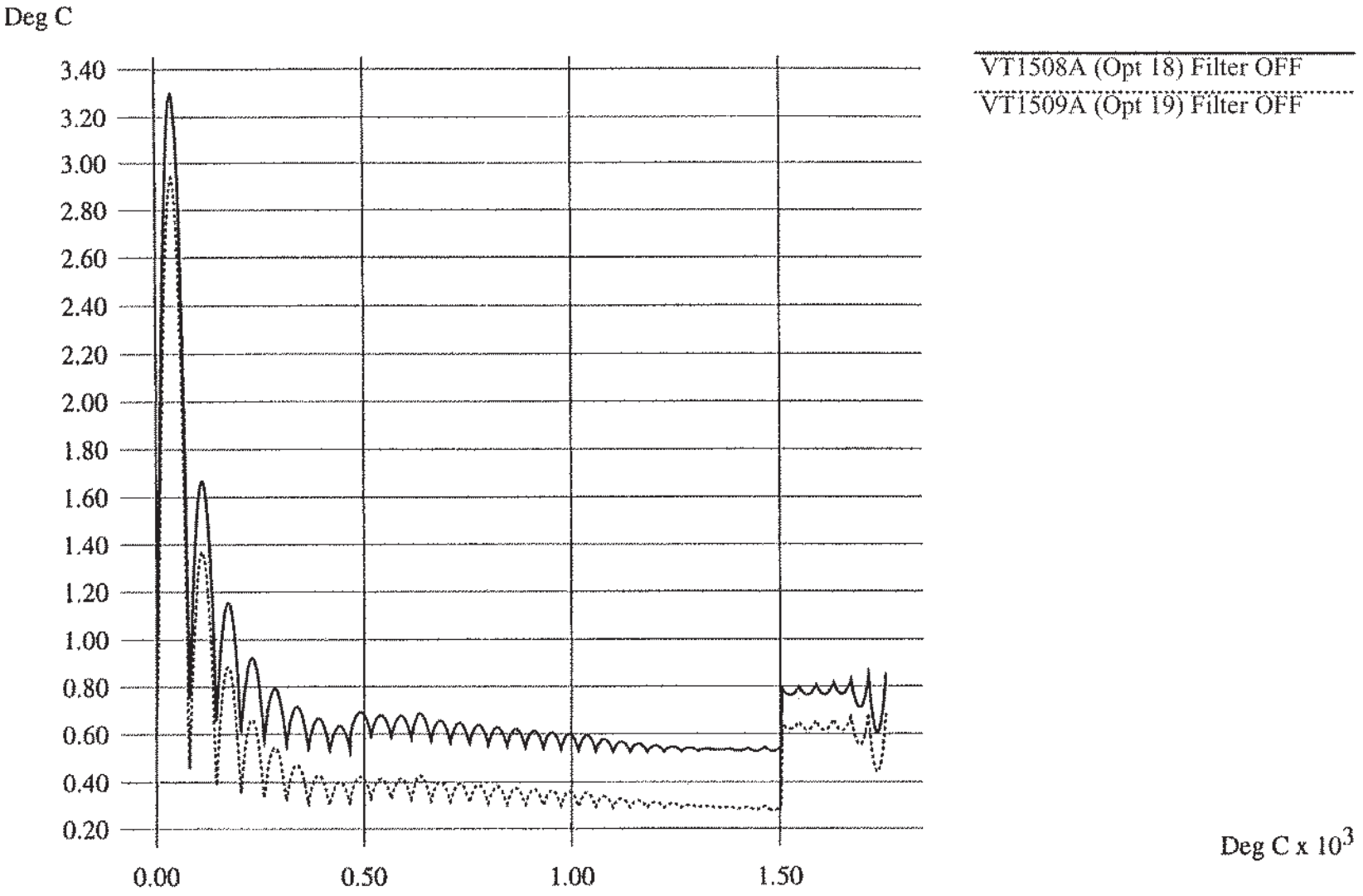
Type R


Deg C
1.80
1.70
1.60
1.50
1.40
1.30
1.20
1.10
1.00
0.90
0.80
0.70
0.60
0.50
0.40
0.30
0.20
0.00
0.20
0.40
0.60
0.80
1.00
VT1508A (Opt 18) Filter OFF
VT1509A (Opt 19) Filter OFF
Deg C x 10^3

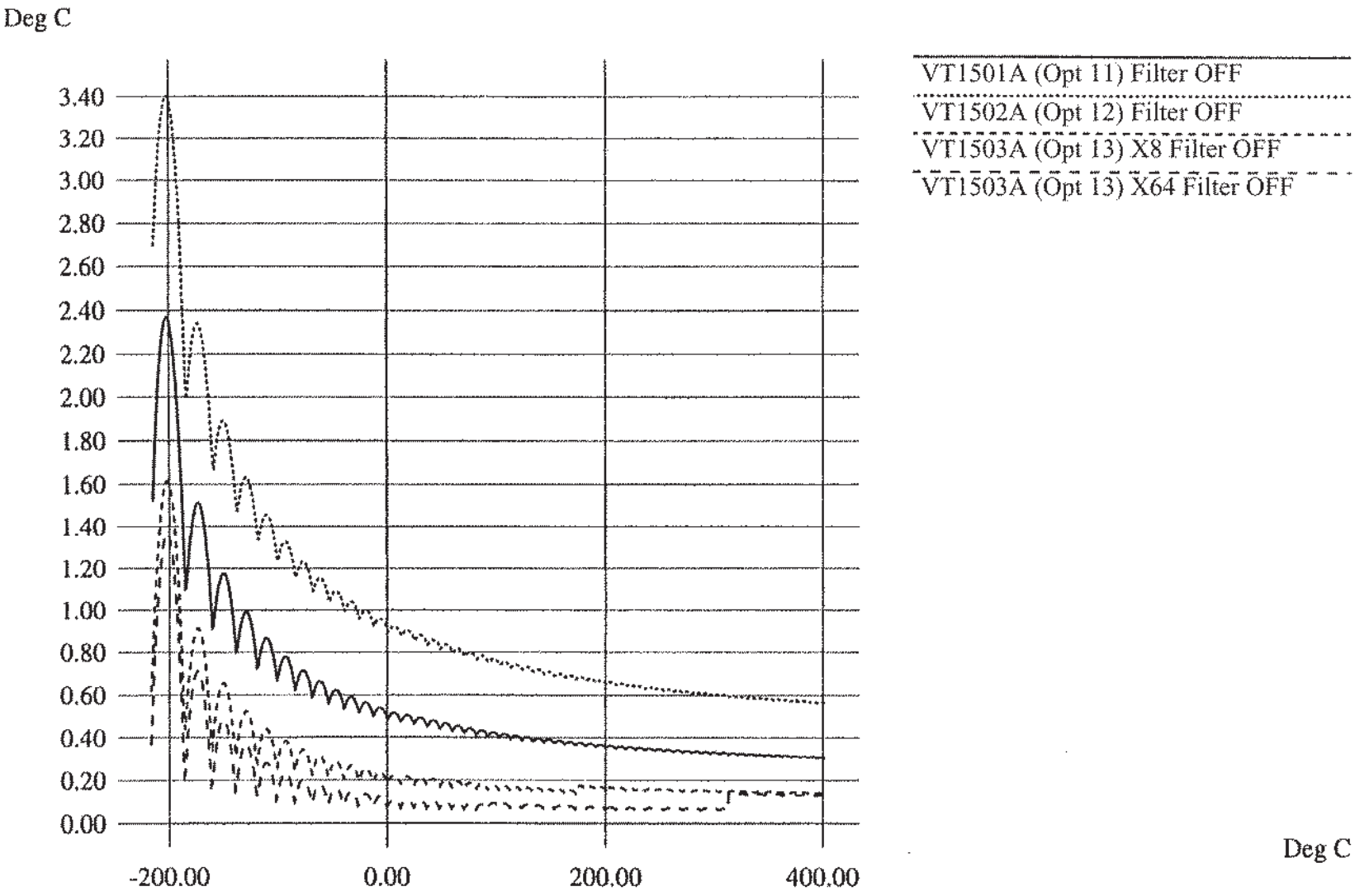
Type S


Deg C
8.00
7.50
7.00
6.50
6.00
5.50
5.00
4.50
4.00
3.50
3.00
2.50
2.00
1.50
1.00
0.50
0.00
0.00
0.50
1.00
1.50
VT1501A (Opt 11) Filter OFF
VT1502A (Opt 12) Filter OFF
VT1503A (Opt 13) X8 Filter OFF
VT1503A (Opt 13) X64 Filter OFF
Deg C x 10^3

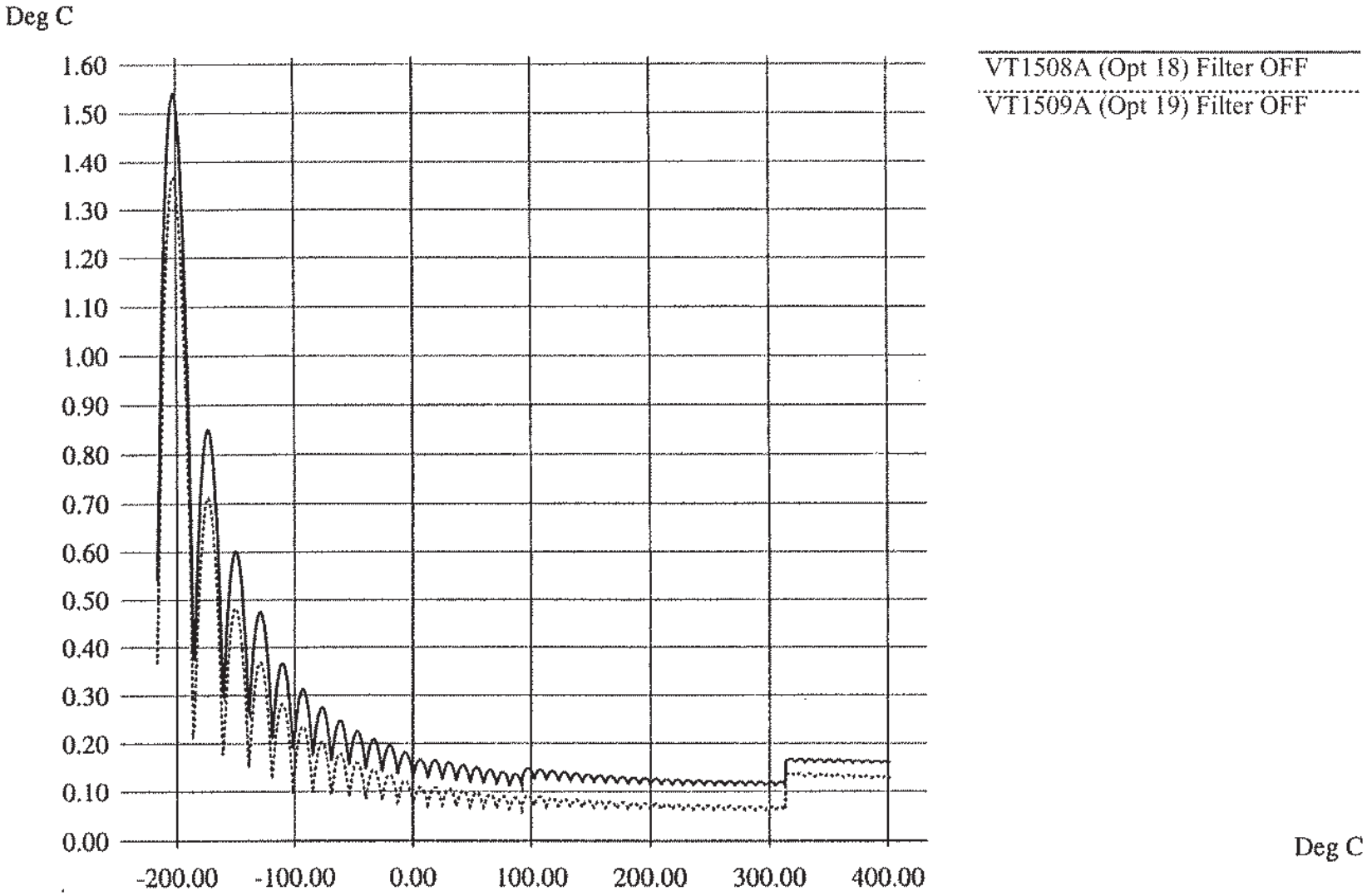
Type S

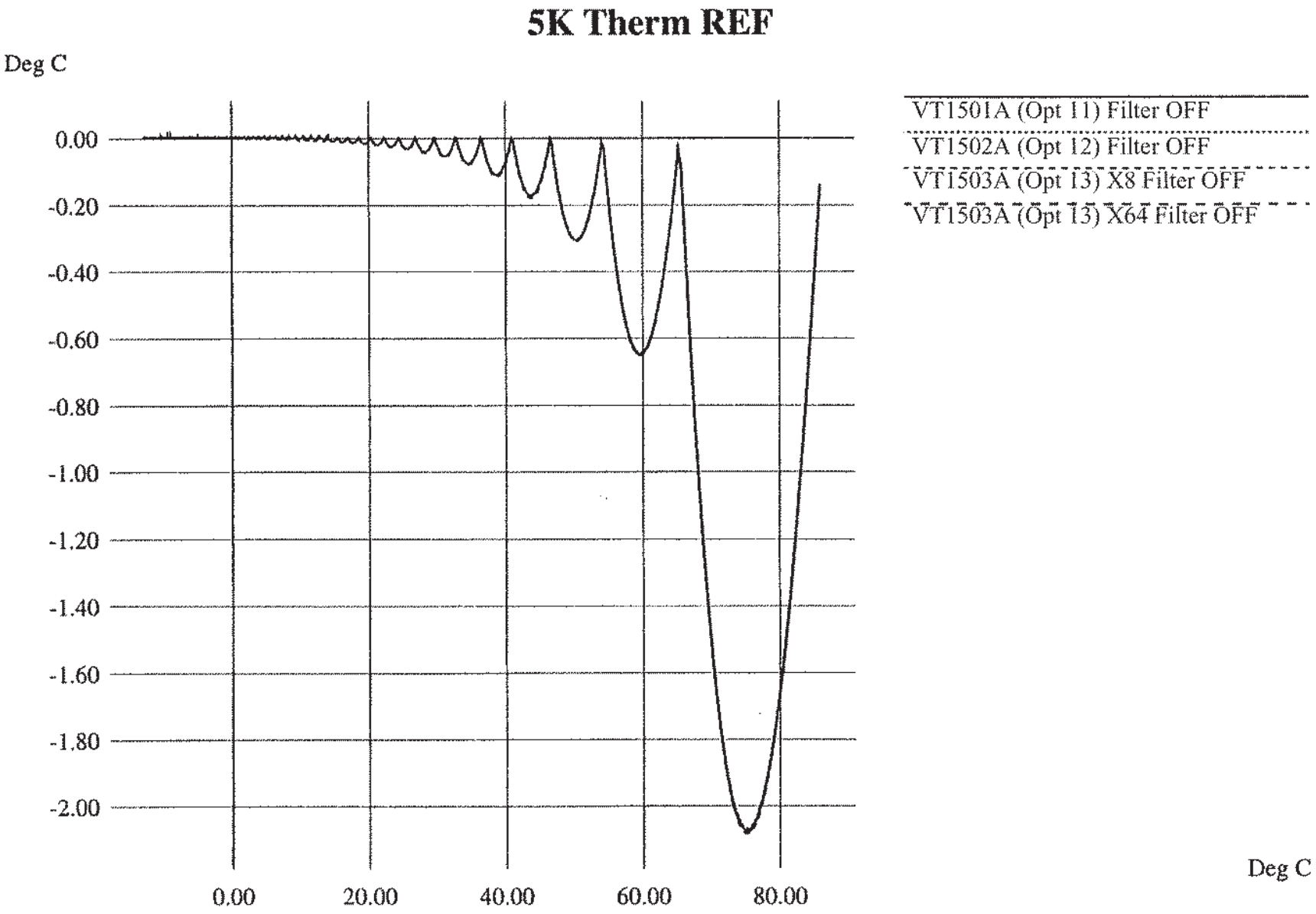

Deg C
3.40
3.20
3.00
2.80
2.60
2.40
2.20
2.00
1.80
1.60
1.40
1.20
1.00
0.80
0.60
0.40
0.20
0.00
0.50
1.00
1.50
VT1508A (Opt 18) Filter OFF
VT1509A (Opt 19) Filter OFF
Deg C x 10^3

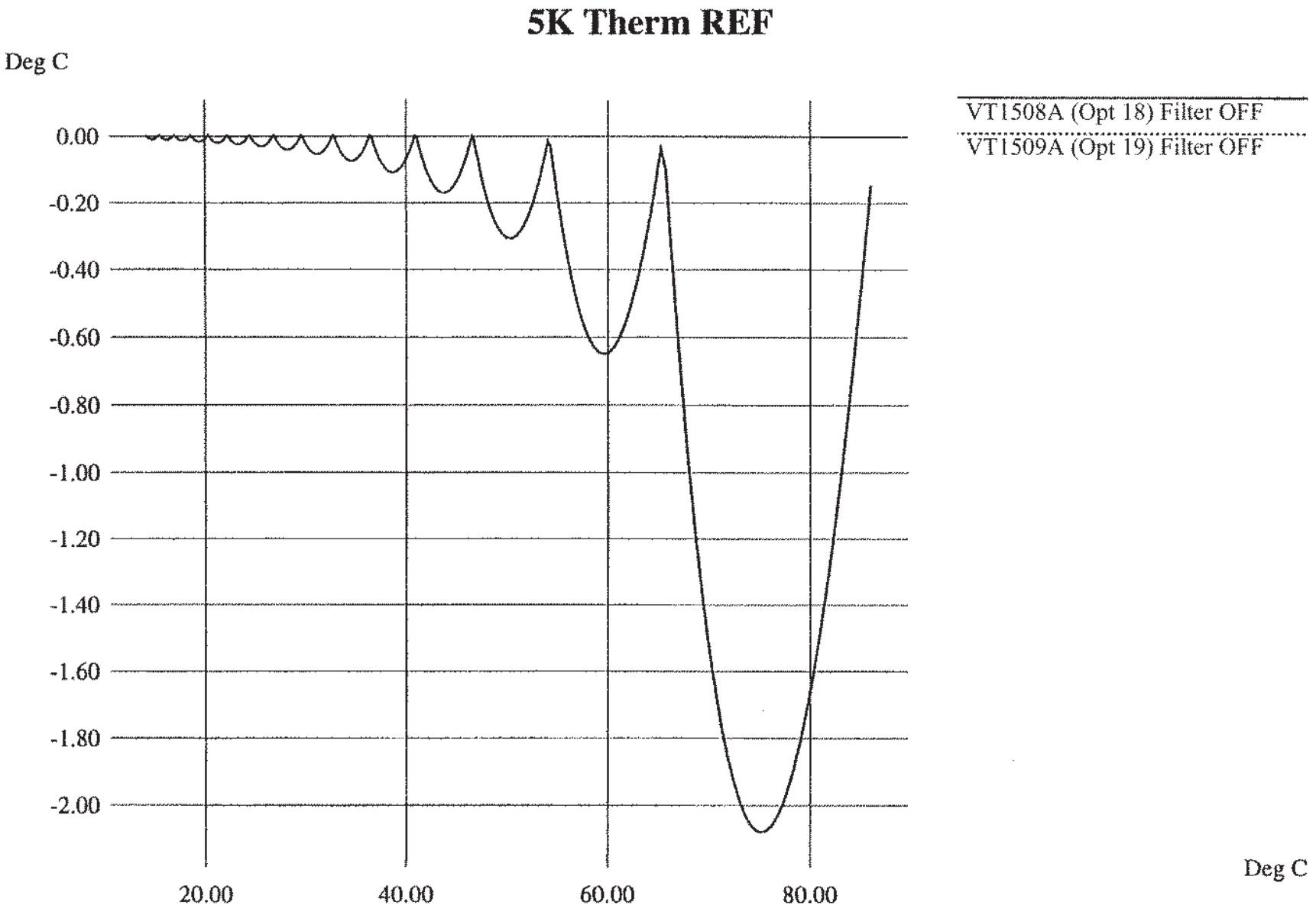
Type T


Deg C
3.40
3.20
3.00
2.80
2.60
2.40
2.20
2.00
1.80
1.60
1.40
1.20
1.00
0.80
0.60
0.40
0.20
0.00
-200.00
0.00
200.00
400.00
VT1501A (Opt 11) Filter OFF
VT1502A (Opt 12) Filter OFF
VT1503A (Opt 13) X8 Filter OFF
VT1503A (Opt 13) X64 Filter OFF
Deg C

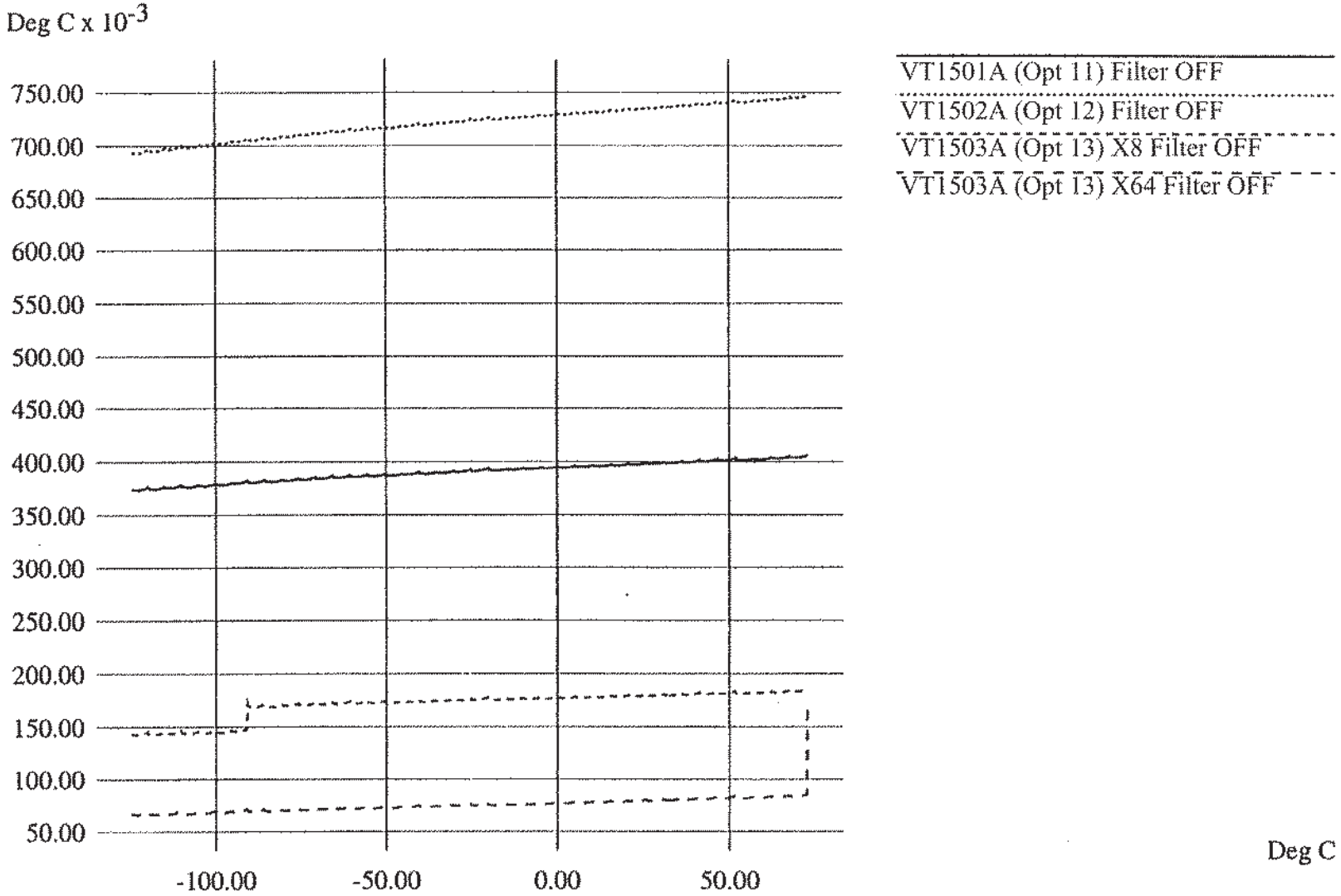
Type T


Deg C
1.60
1.50
1.40
1.30
1.20
1.10
1.00
0.90
0.80
0.70
0.60
0.50
0.40
0.30
0.20
0.10
0.00
-200.00
-100.00
0.00
100.00
200.00
300.00
400.00
VT1508A (Opt 18) Filter OFF
VT1509A (Opt 19) Filter OFF
Deg C

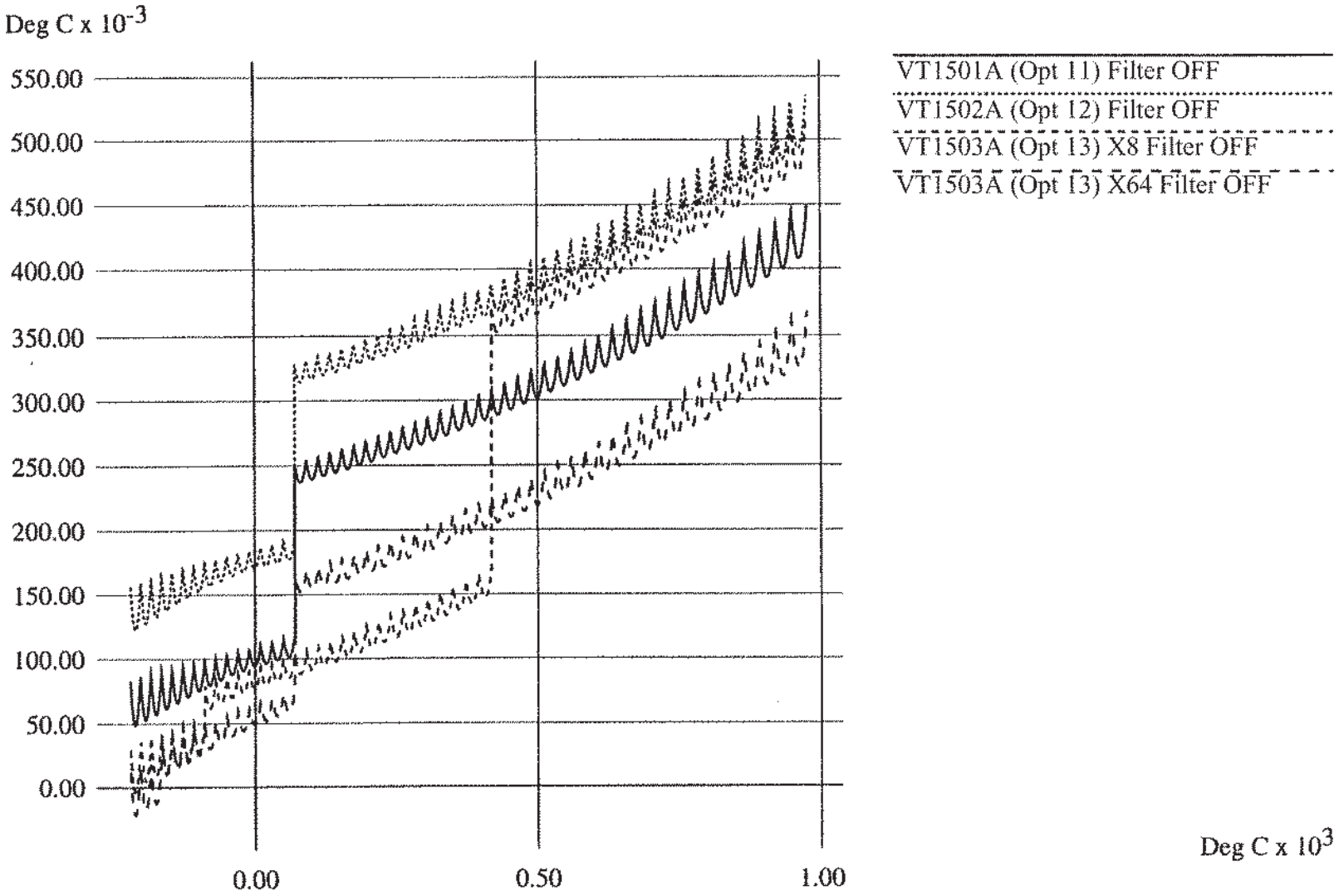

5K Therm REF
Deg C
0.00
-0.20
-0.40
-0.60
-0.80
-1.00
-1.20
-1.40
-1.60
-1.80
-2.00
0.00
20.00
40.00
60.00
80.00
VT1501A (Opt 11) Filter OFF
VT1502A (Opt 12) Filter OFF
VT1503A (Opt 13) X8 Filter OFF
VT1503A (Opt 13) X64 Filter OFF
Deg C


5K Therm REF
Deg C
0.00
-0.20
-0.40
-0.60
-0.80
-1.00
-1.20
-1.40
-1.60
-1.80
-2.00
20.00
40.00
60.00
80.00
VT1508A (Opt 18) Filter OFF
VT1509A (Opt 19) Filter OFF
Deg C

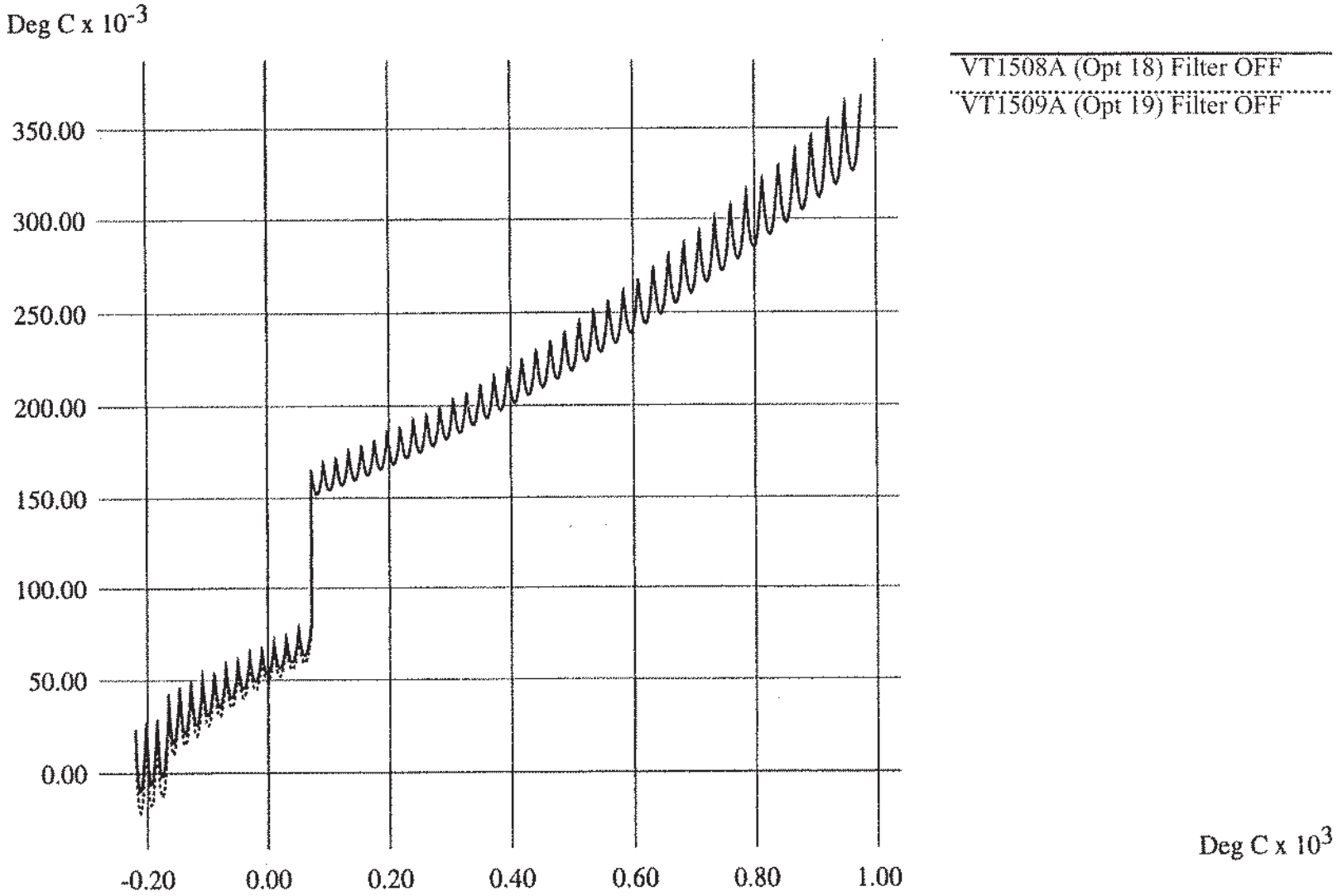
RTD REF


Deg C x 10^{-3}
750.00
700.00
650.00
600.00
550.00
500.00
450.00
400.00
350.00
300.00
250.00
200.00
150.00
100.00
50.00
-100.00
-50.00
0.00
50.00
VT1501A (Opt 11) Filter OFF
VT1502A (Opt 12) Filter OFF
VT1503A (Opt 13) X8 Filter OFF
VT1503A (Opt 13) X64 Filter OFF
Deg C

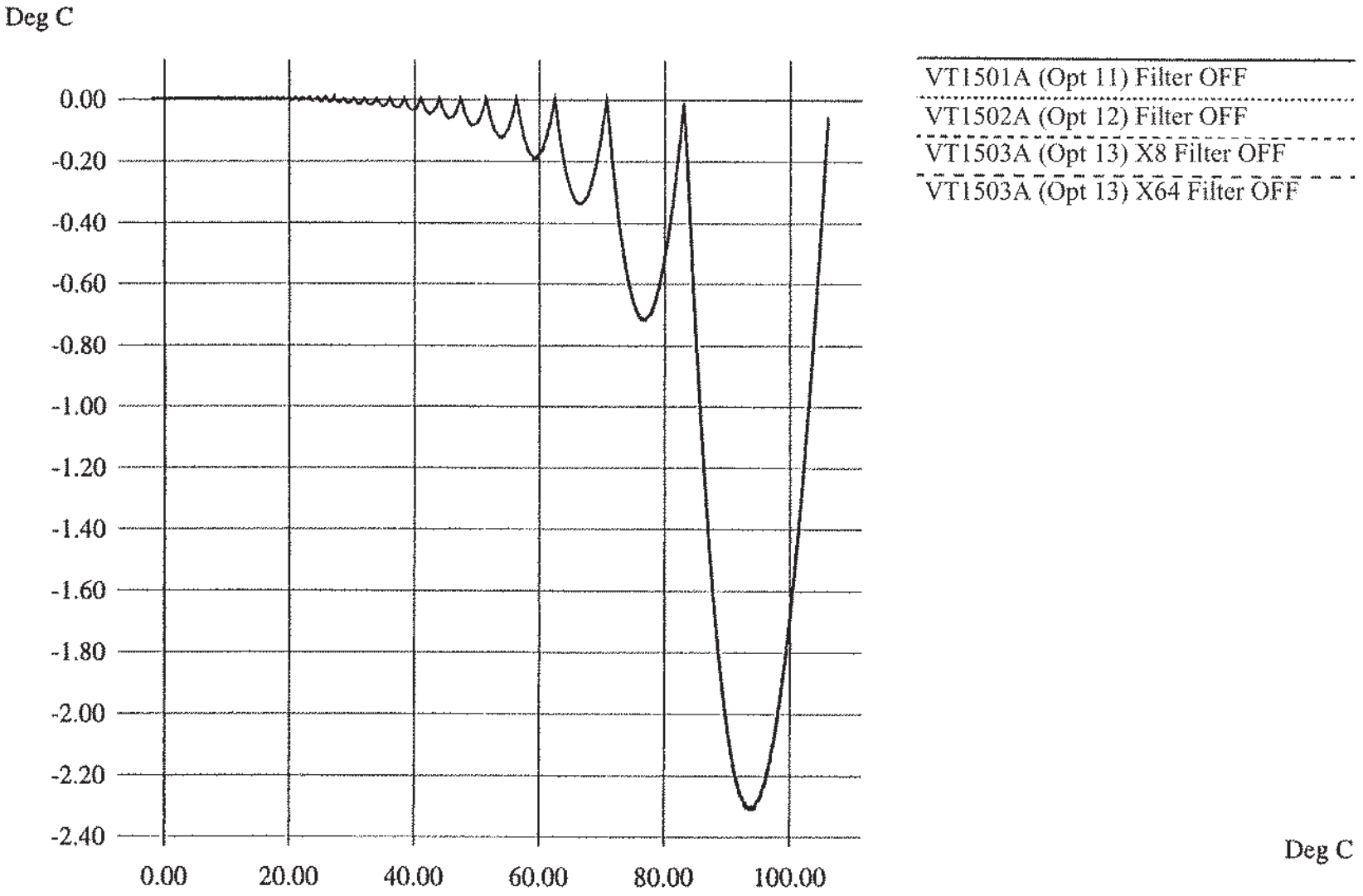
RTD


Deg C x 10^{-3}
550.00
500.00
450.00
400.00
350.00
300.00
250.00
200.00
150.00
100.00
50.00
0.00
0.00
0.50
1.00
VT1501A (Opt 11) Filter OFF
VT1502A (Opt 12) Filter OFF
VT1503A (Opt 13) X8 Filter OFF
VT1503A (Opt 13) X64 Filter OFF
Deg C x 10^{3}

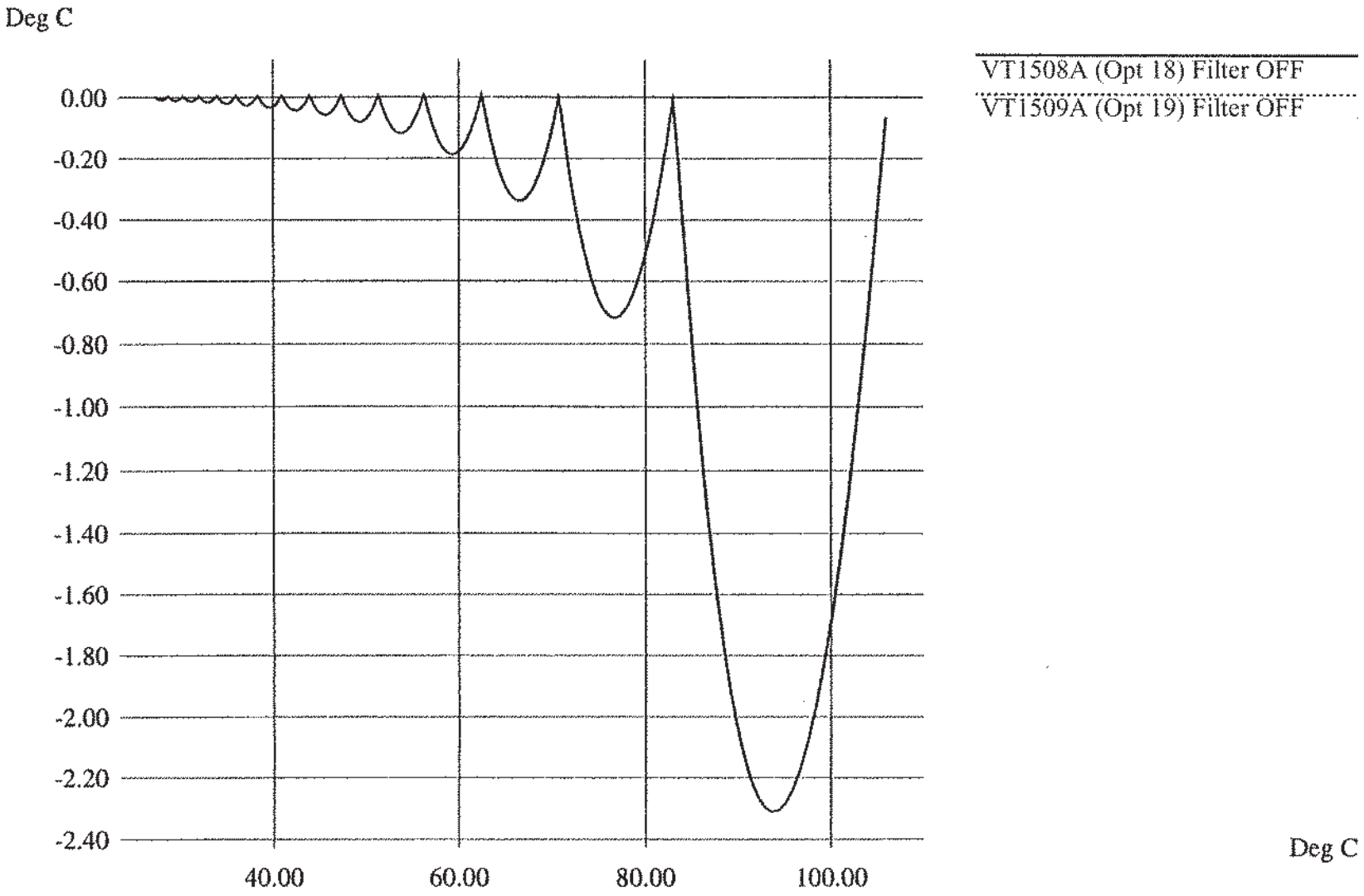
RTD


Deg C x 10^{-3}
350.00
300.00
250.00
200.00
150.00
100.00
50.00
0.00
-0.20
0.00
0.20
0.40
0.60
0.80
1.00
VT1508A (Opt 18) Filter OFF
VT1509A (Opt 19) Filter OFF
Deg C x 10^{3}

2252 Therm


Deg C
0.00
-0.20
-0.40
-0.60
-0.80
-1.00
-1.20
-1.40
-1.60
-1.80
-2.00
-2.20
-2.40
0.00
20.00
40.00
60.00
80.00
100.00
VT1501A (Opt 11) Filter OFF
VT1502A (Opt 12) Filter OFF
VT1503A (Opt 13) X8 Filter OFF
VT1503A (Opt 13) X64 Filter OFF
Deg C

2252 Therm


Deg C
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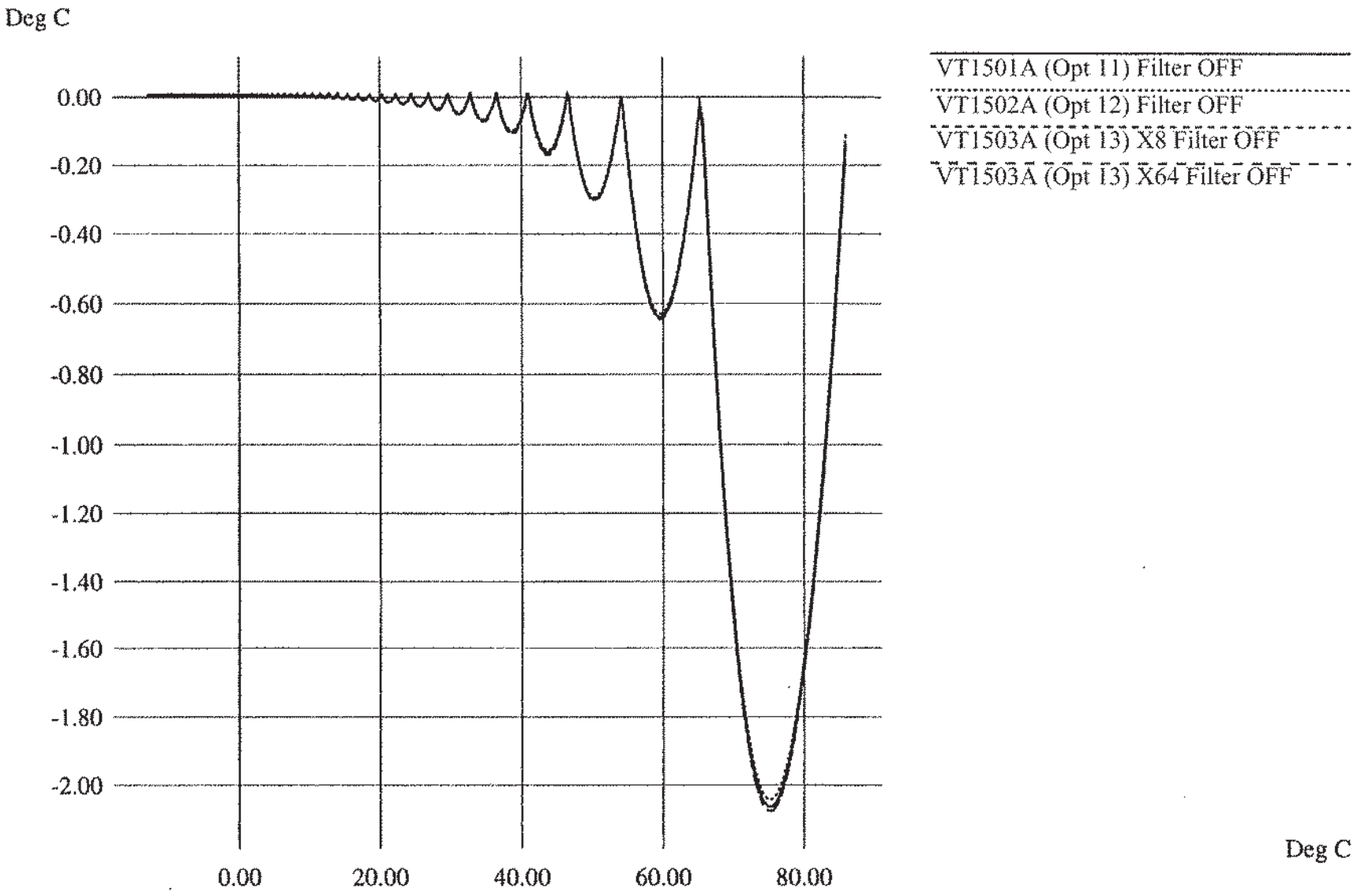
-0.20
-0.40
-0.60
-0.80
-1.00
-1.20
-1.40
-1.60
-1.80
-2.00
-2.20
-2.40
40.00
60.00
80.00
100.00
VT1508A (Opt 18) Filter OFF
VT1509A (Opt 19) Filter OFF
Deg C

5K Therm


Deg C
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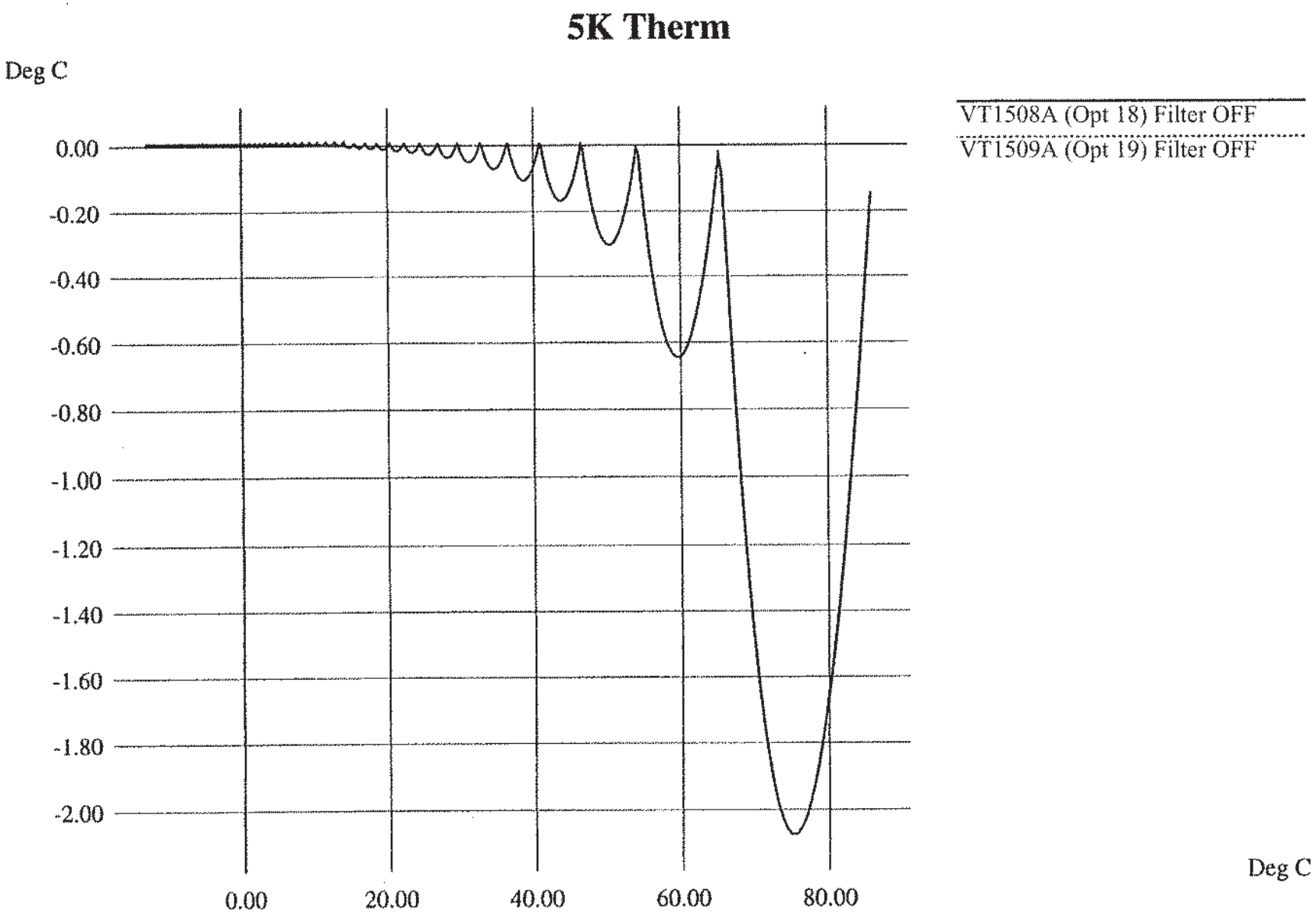
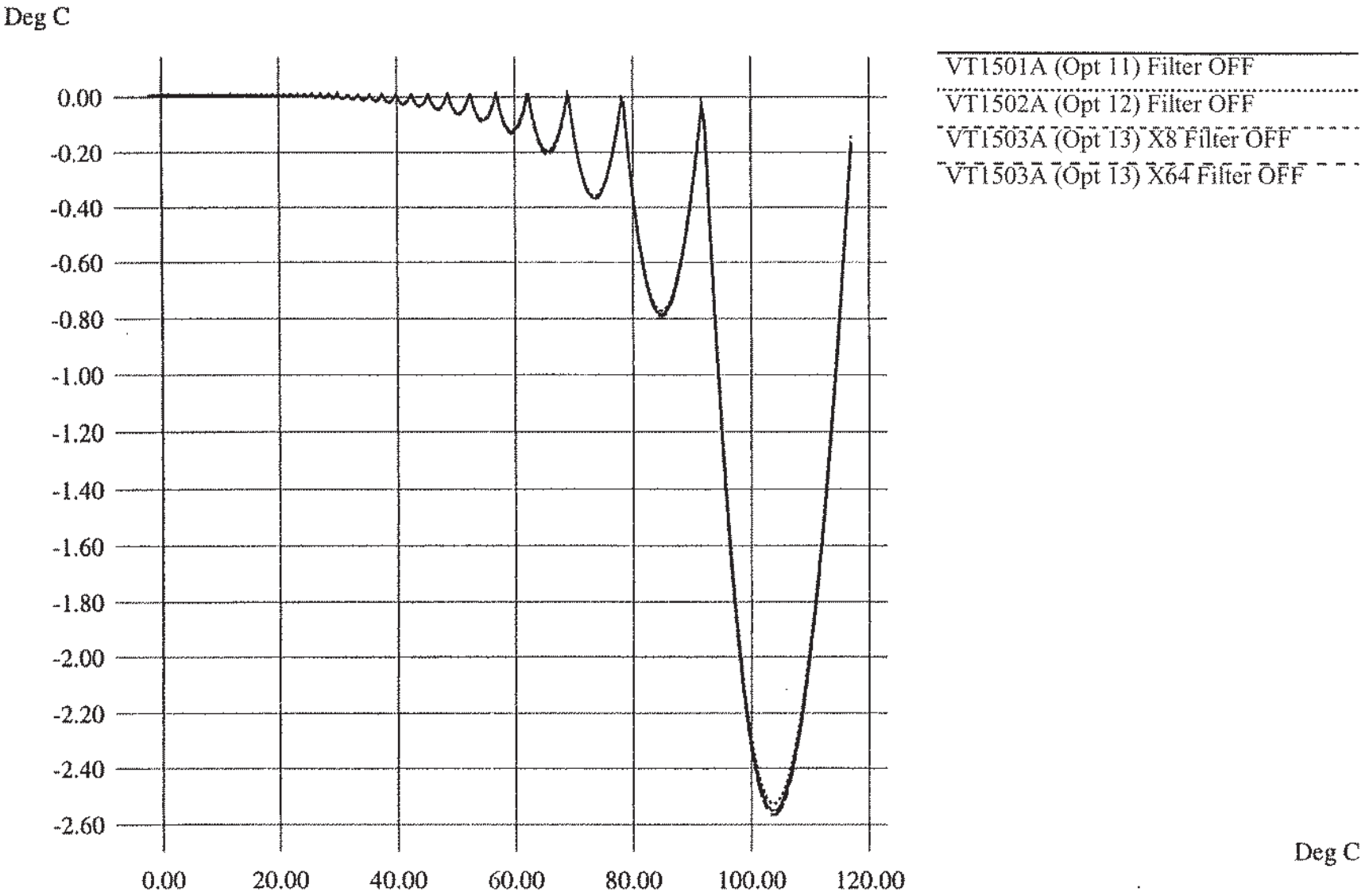
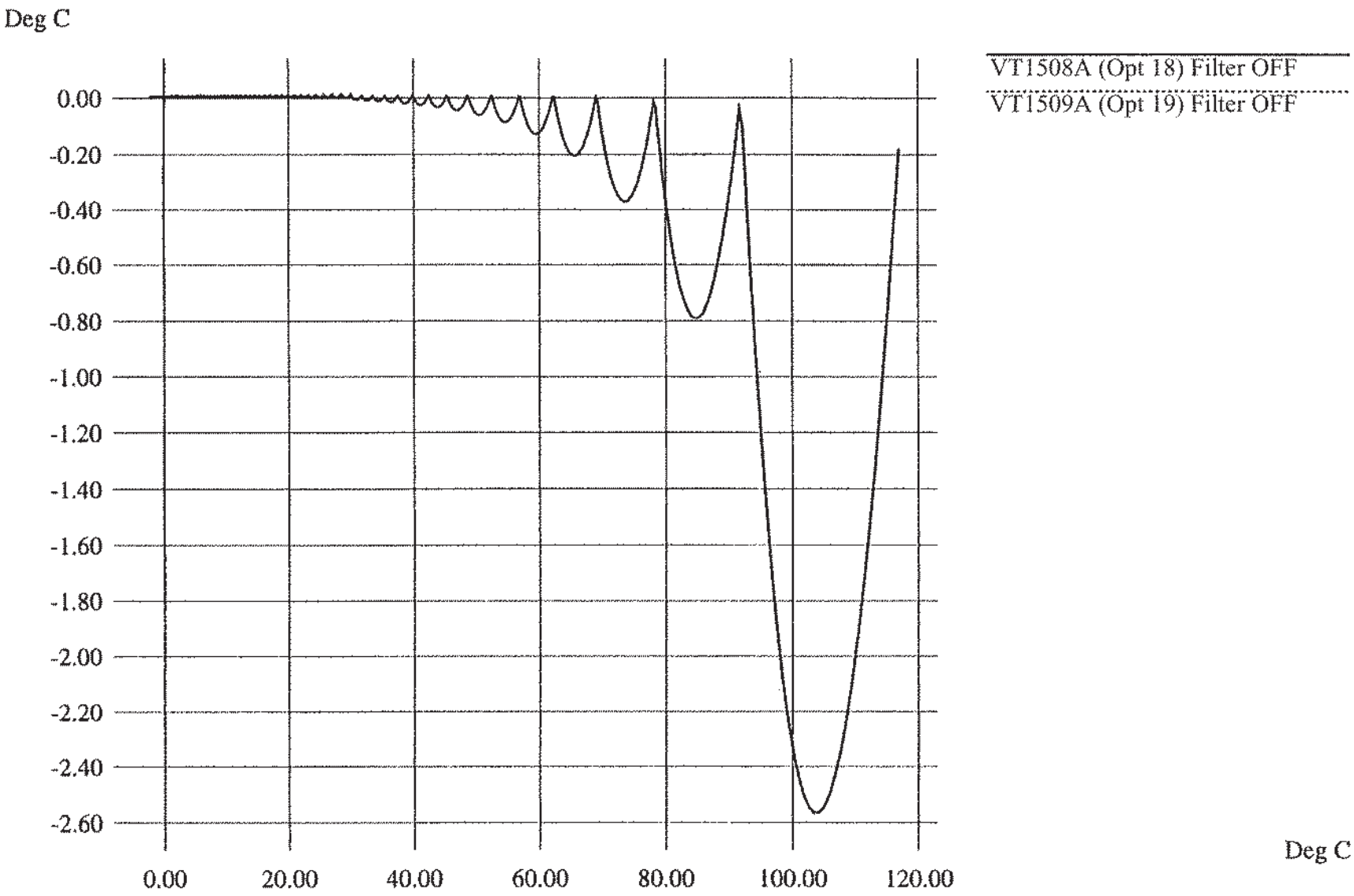
-0.20
-0.40
-0.60
-0.80
-1.00
-1.20
-1.40
-1.60
-1.80
-2.00
0.00
20.00
40.00
60.00
80.00
VT1501A (Opt 11) Filter OFF
VT1502A (Opt 12) Filter OFF
VT1503A (Opt 13) X8 Filter OFF
VT1503A (Opt 13) X64 Filter OFF
Deg C


5K Therm
Deg C
0.00
-0.20
-0.40
-0.60
-0.80
-1.00
-1.20
-1.40
-1.60
-1.80
-2.00
0.00
20.00
40.00
60.00
80.00
Deg C
VT1508A (Opt 18) Filter OFF
VT1509A (Opt 19) Filter OFF

10K Therm


Deg C
0.00
-0.20
-0.40
-0.60
-0.80
-1.00
-1.20
-1.40
-1.60
-1.80
-2.00
-2.20
-2.40
-2.60
0.00
20.00
40.00
60.00
80.00
100.00
120.00
VT1501A (Opt 11) Filter OFF
VT1502A (Opt 12) Filter OFF
VT1503A (Opt 13) X8 Filter OFF
VT1503A (Opt 13) X64 Filter OFF
Deg C

10K Therm


Deg C
0.00
-0.20
-0.40
-0.60
-0.80
-1.00
-1.20
-1.40
-1.60
-1.80
-2.00
-2.20
-2.40
-2.60
0.00
20.00
40.00
60.00
80.00
100.00
120.00
VT1508A (Opt 18) Filter OFF
VT1509A (Opt 19) Filter OFF
Deg C

Appendix B
Error Messages

Possible Error Messages:

-108	‘Parameter not allowed.’
-109	‘Missing parameter’
-160	‘Block data error.’
-211	‘Trigger ignored.’
-212	‘Arm ignored.’
-213	‘Init ignored.’
-221	‘Settings conflict.’
-222	‘Data out of range.’
-224	‘Illegal parameter value.’
-240	‘Hardware error.’ Execute *TST?
-253	‘Corrupt media.’
-281	‘Cannot create program.’
-282	‘Illegal program name.’
-310	‘System error.’
-410	‘Query INTERRUPTED.’
1000	‘Out of memory.’
2001	‘Invalid channel number.’
2003	‘Invalid word address.’
2007	‘Bus error.’
2008	‘Scan list not initialized.’
2009	‘Too many channels in channel list.’
2016	‘Byte count is not a multiple of two.’
3000	‘Illegal while initiated.’ Operation must be performed before INIT or INIT:CONT ON.
3004	‘Illegal command. CAL:CONF not sent.’ Incorrect sequence of calibration commands. Send CAL:CONF:VOLT command before CAL:VAL:VOLT and send CAL:CONF:RES command before CAL:VAL:RES.

3005 ‘Illegal command. Send CAL:VAL:RES.’ The only command accepted after a CAL:CONF:RES is a CAL:VAL:RES command.

3006 ‘Illegal command. Send CAL:VAL:VOLT.’ The only command accepted after a CAL:CONF:VOLT is a CAL:VAL:VOLT command.

3007 ‘Invalid signal conditioning module.’ The command sent to an SCP was illegal for its type.

3008 ‘Too few channels in scan list.’ A Scan List must contain at least two channels.

3012 ‘Trigger too fast.’ Scan list not completed before another trigger event occurs.

3015 ‘Channel modifier not permitted here.’

3019 ‘TRIG:TIM interval too small for SAMP:TIM interval and scan list size.’ TRIG:TIM interval must allow for completion of entire scan list at currently set SAMP:TIM interval. See TRIG:TIM in Chapter 5, the Command Reference.

3020 ‘Input overvoltage.’ Calibration relays opened (if JM2202 not cut) to protect module inputs and Questionable Data Status bit 11 set. Execute *RST to close relays and/or reset status bit.

3021 ‘FIFO overflow.’ Indicates that the FIFO buffer has filled and that one or more readings have been lost. Usually caused by algorithm values stored in FIFO faster than FIFO was read.

3026 ‘Calibration failed.’

3027 ‘Unable to map A24 VXI memory.’

3028 ‘Incorrect range value.’ Range value sent is not supported by instrument.

3030 ‘Command not yet implemented!!’

3032 ‘0x1: DSP-Unrecognized command code.’

3033 ‘0x2: DSP-Parameter out of range.’

3034 ‘0x4: DSP-Flash rom erase failure.’

3035 ‘0x8: DSP-Programming voltage not present.’

3036 ‘0x10: DSP-Invalid SCP gain value.’ Check that SCP is seated or replace SCP. Channel numbers are in FIFO.

3037 ‘0x20: DSP-Invalid *CAL? constant or checksum. *CAL? required.’

3038 ‘0x40: DSP-Couldn’t cal some channels.’ Check that SCP is seated or replace SCP. Channel numbers are in FIFO.

3039 ‘0x80: DSP-Re-Zero of ADC failed.’

3040 ‘0x100: DSP-Invalid Tare CAL constant or checksum.’ Perform CAL:TARE - CAL:TARE? procedure.

3041 ‘0x200: DSP-Invalid Factory CAL constant or checksum.’ Perform A/D Cal procedure.

3042 ‘0x400: DSP-DAC adjustment went to limit.’ Execute *TST?

3043 ‘0x800: DSP Status—Do *CAL?.’

3044 ‘0x1000: DSP-Overvoltage on input.’

3045 ‘0x2000: DSP-reserved error condition.’

3046 ‘0x4000: DSP-ADC hardware failure.’

3047 ‘0x8000: DSP-reserved error condition.’

3048 ‘Calibration or Test in Process.’

3049 ‘Calibration not in Process.’

3050 ‘ZERO must be sent before FSCale.’ Perform A/D Cal sequence as shown in Command Reference under CAL:CONF:VOLT.

3051 ‘Memory size must be multiple of 4.’ From MEM:VME:SIZE. Each VT1419A reading requires 4 bytes.

3052 ‘Self test failed. Test info in FIFO.’ Use SENS:DATA:FIFO:ALL? to retrieve data from FIFO.

NOTE: *TST? always sets the FIFO data FORMat to ASCII,7. Read FIFO data into string variables.

Meaning of *TST? FIFO data by Value	
FIIFO Value	Definition
1 - 99	ID number of failed test (see following table for possible corrective actions)
100 - 163	Channel number(s) associated with test (ch 0-63)
164	Special “channel” used for A/D tests only
200	A/D range 0.0625 V associated with failed test
201	A/D range 0.25 V associated with failed test
202	A/D range 1 V associated with failed test
203	A/D range 4 V associated with failed test
204	A/D range 16 V associated with failed test

Possible Corrective Action by Failed Test ID Number	
Test ID	Corrective Actions
1 - 19, 21 - 29	(VXI Technology Service)*

Possible Corrective Action by Failed Test ID Number	
Test ID	Corrective Actions
20, 30 -37	Remove all SCPs and see if *TST? passes. If so, replace SCPs one at a time until the one causing the problem is found.
38 - 71	(VXI Technology Service)*
72,74 - 76, 80 - 93, 301 - 354	Re-seat the SCP that the channel number(s) points to or move the SCP and see if the failure(s) follow the SCP. If the problems move with the SCP, replace the SCP.
73, 77 - 79, 94 - 99	(VXI Technology Service)*

*Must send module to a VXI Technology Service Center for repair. Record information found in FIFO to assist the VXI Technology Service Center in repairing the problem.

Refer to the Command Reference under *TST? for a list of module functions tested.

NOTE During the first five minutes after power is applied, *TST? may fail. Allow the module to warm-up before executing *TST?

3053 'Corrupt on board Flash memory.'

3056 'Custom EU not loaded.' May have erased custom EU conversion table with *RST. May have linked channel with standard EU after loading custom EU, this erases the custom EU for this channel. Reload custom EU table using DIAG:CUST:LIN or DIAG:CUST:PIEC.

3057 'Invalid ARM or TRIG source when S/H SCP's enabled.' Don't set TRIG:SOUR or ARM:SOUR to SCP with VT1510A or VT1511A installed.

3058 'Hardware does not have D32, S/H or new trigger capabilities.' Module's serial number is earlier than 3313A00530.

3067 'Multiple attempts to erase flash memory failed.'

3068 'Multiple attempts to program flash memory failed.'

3069 'Programming voltage jumper not set properly.' See Disabling Flash Memory Access in Chapter 1 (JM2201).

3070 'Identification of Flash ROM incorrect.'

3071 'Checksum error on flash memory.'

3074 'WARNING! Old Opt 16 or Opt 17 card can damage SCP modules' must use VT1506A or VT1507A.

3075	‘Too many entries in CVT list.’
3076	‘Invalid entry in CVT list.’ Can only be 10 to 511.
3077	‘Too many updates in queue. Must send UPDATE command.’ To allow more updates per ALG:UPD, increase ALG:UPD:WINDOW.
3078	‘Invalid Algorithm name.’ Can only be ‘ALG1’ through ‘ALG32’ or ‘GLOBALS’ or ‘MAIN’
3079	‘Algorithm is undefined.’ In ALG:SCAL, ALG:SCAL?, ALG:ARR or ALG:ARR?
3080	‘Algorithm already defined.’ Trying to repeat ALG:DEF with same <*alg_name*> (and is not enabled to swap) or trying to define ‘GLOBALS’ again since last *RST.
3081	‘Variable is undefined.’ Algorithm exists but has no local variable by that name.
3082	‘Invalid Variable name.’ Must be valid ‘C’ identifier, see Chapter 5.
3083	‘Global symbol (variable or custom function) already defined.’ Trying to define a global variable with same name as a user defined function or vice versa. User functions are also global.

3084 ‘Algorithmic error queue full.’ ALG:DEF has generated too many errors from the algorithm source code.

3084

“Error 1: Number too big for a 32 bit float”
“Error 2: Number too big for a 32 bit integer”
“Error 3: ‘8’ or ‘9’ not allowed in an octal number”
“Error 4: Syntax error”
“Error 5: Expecting ‘(‘”
“Error 6: Expecting ‘)’”
“Error 7: Expecting an expression”
“Error 8: Out of driver memory”
“Error 9: Expecting a bit number (Bn or Bnn)”
“Error 10: Expecting ‘]’”
“Error 11: Expecting an identifier”
“Error 12: Arrays can’t be initialized”
“Error 13: Expecting ‘static’”
“Error 14: Expecting ‘float’”
“Error 15: Expecting ‘;’”
“Error 16: Expecting ‘,’”
“Error 17: Expecting ‘=’”
“Error 18: Expecting ‘{‘”
“Error 19: Expecting ‘}’”
“Error 20: Expecting a statement”
“Error 21: Expecting ‘if’”
“Error 22: Can’t write to input channels”
“Error 23: Expecting a constant expression”
“Error 24: Expecting an integer constant expression”
“Error 25: Reference to an undefined variable”
“Error 26: Array name used in a scalar context”
“Error 27: Scalar name used in an array context”
“Error 28: Variable name used in a custom function context”
“Error 29: Reference to an undefined custom function”
“Error 30: Can’t have executable code in GLOBALS definition”
“Error 31: CVT address range is 10 - 511"
”Error 32: Numbered algorithms can only be called from MAIN"
“Error 33: Reference to an undefined algorithm”
“Error 34: Attempt to redefine an existing symbol (var or fn)”
“Error 35: Array size is 1 - 1024"
”Error 36: Expecting a default PID parameter"
“Error 37: Too many FIFO or CVT writes per scan trigger”
“Error 38: Statement is too complex”
“Error 39: Unterminated comment”

3085 ‘Algorithm too big.’ Algorithm exceeds 46k words (23k if enabled to swap) or exceeds size specified in <*swap_size*>.

3086 ‘Not enough memory to compile Algorithm.’ The algorithm’s constructs are using too much translator memory. Need more memory in the Agilent/HP E1406. Try breaking the algorithm into smaller algorithms.

3088 ‘Too many functions.’ Limit is 32 user defined functions.

3089 ‘Bad Algorithm array index.’ Must be from 0 to (declared size)-1.

3090 ‘Algorithm Compiler Internal Error.’ Call VXI Technology with details of operation.

3091 ‘Illegal while not initiated’ Send INIT before this command.

3092 ‘No updates in queue.’

3093 ‘Illegal Variable Type.’ Sent ALG:SCAL with identifier of array, ALG:ARR with scalar identifier, ALG:UPD:CHAN with identifier that is not a channel, etc.

3094 ‘Invalid Array Size.’ Must be 1 to 1024.

3095 ‘Invalid Algorithm Number.’ Must be ‘ALG1’ to ‘ALG32.’

3096 ‘Algorithm Block must contain termination.’ Must append a null byte to end of algorithm string within the Block Data.

3097 ‘Unknown SCP. Not Tested.’ May receive if a breadboard SCP is being used.

3099 ‘Invalid SCP for this product.’

3100 ‘Analog Scan time too big. Too much settling time.’ Count of channels referenced by algorithms combined with use of SENS:CHAN:SETTLING has attempted to build an analog Scan List greater than 64 channels.

3101 ‘Can’t define new algorithm while running.’ Execute ABORT, then define algorithm.

3102 ‘Need ALG:UPD before redefining this algorithm again’ Already have an algorithm swap pending for this algorithm.

3103 ‘Algorithm swapping already enabled; Can’t change size.’ Only send <*swap_size*> parameter on initial definition.

3104 ‘GLOBALS can’t be enabled for swapping.’ Don’t send <*swap_size*> parameter for ALG:DEF ‘GLOBALS.’

Appendix C
Glossary

The following terms have special meaning when related to the VT1419A.

Algorithm — In general, an algorithm is a tightly defined procedure that performs a task. This manual, uses the term to indicate a program executed within the VT1419A that implements a data acquisition and control algorithm.

Algorithm Language — The algorithm programming language specific to the VT1419A. This programming language is a subset of the ANSI 'C' language.

Application Program — The program that runs in the VXIbus controller, either embedded within the VXIbus mainframe or external and interfaced to the mainframe. The application program typically sends SCPI commands to configure the VT1419A, define its algorithms, then start the algorithms running. Typically, once the VT1419A is running algorithms, the application need only "oversee" the control application by monitoring the algorithms' status. During algorithm writing, debugging and tuning, the application program can retrieve comprehensive data from running algorithms.

Buffer — In this manual, a buffer is an area in RAM memory that is allocated to temporarily hold:

- Data input values that an algorithm will later access. This is the Input Channel Buffer.
- Data output values from an algorithm until these values are sent to hardware output channels. This is the Output Channel Buffer.
- Data output values from an algorithm until these values are read by the application program. This is the First-In-First-Out or FIFO buffer.
- A second copy of an array variable containing updated values until it is "activated" by an update. This is "double buffering."
- A second version of a running algorithm until it is "activated" by an update. This is only for algorithms that are enabled for swapping. This is also "double buffering".

Control Processor — The Digital Signal Processor (DSP) chip that performs all of the VT1419's internal hardware control functions as well as performing the EU Conversion process.

DSP	Same as Control Processor.
EU	Engineering Units.
EU Conversion	Engineering Unit Conversion: Converting binary A/D readings (in units of A/D counts) into engineering units of voltage, resistance, temperature, strain. These are the “built in” conversions (see SENS:FUNC: ...). The VT1419A also provides access to custom EU conversions (see SENS:FUNC:CUST in command reference and “Creating and Loading Custom EU Tables” in Chapter 3).
FIFO	The First-In-First-OUT buffer that provides output buffering for data sent from an algorithm to an application program.
Flash or Flash Memory	Non-volatile semiconductor memory used by the VT1419A to store its control firmware and calibration constants.
Scan List	A list of up to 64 channels that is built by the VT1419A. Channels referenced in algorithms are placed in the Scan List as the algorithm is defined. This list will be scanned each time the module is triggered.
SCP	Signal Conditioning Plug-On: Small circuit boards that plug onto the VT1419A’s main circuit board. Available analog input SCPs can provide noise canceling filters, signal amplifiers, signal attenuators and strain bridge completion. Analog output SCPs are available to provide measurement excitation current, controlling voltage and controlling current. Digital SCPs are available to both read and write digital states, read frequency and counts and output modulated pulse signals (FM and PWM).
Swapping	This term applies to algorithms that are enabled to swap. These algorithms can be exchanged with another of the same name while the original is running. The “new” algorithm becomes active after an update command is sent. This “new” algorithm may again be swapped with another and so on. This capability allows changing algorithm operation without stopping and leaving this and perhaps other processes without control.
Terminal Blocks	The screw-terminal blocks the system field wiring is connected to. The terminal blocks are inside the Terminal Module.
Terminal Module	The plastic encased module which contains the terminal blocks the field wiring is connected to. The Terminal Module then is plugged into the VT1419A’s front panel.

Update This is an intended change to an algorithm, algorithm variable or global variable that is initiated by one of the commands ALG:SCALAR, ALG:ARRAY, ALG:DEFINE, ALG:SCAN:RATIO, or ALG:STATE. This change or "update" is considered to be pending until an update command is received. Several updates can be sent to the Update Queue, waiting for an update command to cause them to take effect synchronously. The update commands are ALG:UPDATE and ALG:UPD:CHANNEL.

Update Queue A list of scalar variable values and/or buffer pointer values (for arrays and swapping algorithms) that is built in response to updates (see Update). When an update command is sent, scalar values and pointer values are sent to their working locations.

User Function A function callable from the Algorithm Language in the general form <*function_name*> **(** <*expression*> **)** . These user defined functions provide advanced mathematical capability to the Algorithm Language.

Appendix D
Wiring and Noise Reduction Methods

Separating Digital and Analog SCP Signals

Signals with very fast rise time can cause interference with nearby signal paths. This is called cross-talk. Digital signals present this fast rise-time situation. Digital I/O signal lines that are very close to analog input signal lines can inject noise into them.

To minimize cross-talk, try to maximize the distance between analog input and digital I/O signal lines. Figure D-1 shows that, by installing analog input SCPs in positions 0 through 3 and analog output and digital I/O SCPs in positions 4 through 7, these types of signals can be separated by the width of the VT1419A module. The signals are further isolated because they remain separated on the connector module as well. Note that in Figure D-1, even though only 7 of the eight SCP positions are filled, the SCPs present are not installed contiguously, but are arranged to provide this digital/analog separation.

If it is necessary to mix analog input and digital I/O SCPs on the same side, the following suggestions will help provide quieter analog measurements.

- Use analog input SCPs that provide filtering on the mixed side.
- Route only high level analog signals to the mixed side.

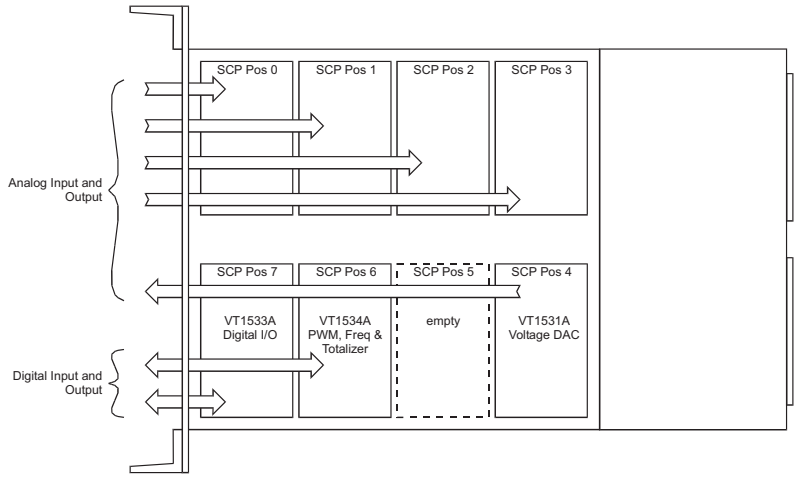


Figure D-1: Separating Analog and Digital Signals

Recommended Wiring and Noise Reduction Techniques

Unshielded signal wiring is very common in Data Acquisition applications. While this worked well for low speed integrating A/D measurements and/or for measuring high level signals, it does not work for high speed sampling A/Ds, particularly when measuring low level signals like thermocouples or strain gage bridge outputs. Unshielded wiring will pick up environmental noise, causing measurement errors. Shielded, twisted pair signal wiring, although it is expensive, is required for these measurements unless an even more expensive amplifier-at-the-signal-source or individual A/D at the source is used.

Generally, the shield should be connected to ground at the DUT and left open at the VT1419A. Floating DUTs or transducers are an exception. Connect the shield to VT1419A GND or GRD terminals for this case, whichever gives the best performance. This will usually be the GND terminal. A single point shield to ground connection is required to prevent ground loops. This point should be as near to the noise source as possible and this is usually at the DUT.

Wiring Checklist

The following lists some recommended wiring techniques.

1. Use individually shielded, twisted-pair wiring for each channel.
2. Connect the shield of each wiring pair to the corresponding Guard (G) terminal on the Terminal Module .
3. The Terminal Module is shipped with the Ground-Guard (GND-GRD) shorting jumper installed for each channel. These may be left installed or removed, dependent on the following conditions:
   a. **Grounded Transducer with shield connected to ground at the transducer:** Low frequency ground loops (dc and/or 50/60 Hz) can result if the shield is also grounded at the Terminal Module end. To prevent this, remove the GND-GRD jumper for that channel.
   b. **Floating Transducer with shield connected to the transducer at the source:** In this case, the best performance will most likely be achieved by leaving the GND-GRD jumper in place.
4. In general, the GND-GRD jumper can be left in place unless it is necessary to break low frequency (below 1 kHz) ground loops.

VT1419A Guard Connections

The VT1419A guard connection provides a 10 kΩ current limiting resistor between the guard terminals (G) and VT1419A chassis ground for each 8 channel SCP bank. This is a safety device for the case where the Device Under Test (DUT) isn't actually floating, the shield is connected to the DUT and also connected to the VT1419A guard terminal (G). The 10 kΩ resistor limits the ground loop current, which has been known to burn out shields. This also provides 20 kΩ isolation between shields between SCP banks which helps isolate the noise source.

Common Mode Voltage Limits

Be very careful not to exceed the maximum common mode voltage referenced to the card chassis ground of ±16 volts (±60 volts with the VT1513A Attenuator SCP). There is an exception to this when high frequency (1 kHz - 20 kHz) common mode noise is present (see "VT1419A Noise Rejection" below). Also, if the DUT is not grounded, then the shield should be connected to the VT1419A chassis ground.

When to Make Shield Connections

It is not always possible to state positively the best shield connection for all cases. Shield performance depends on the noise coupling mechanism which is very difficult to determine. The above recommendations are usually the best wiring method, but if feasible, experiment with shield connections to determine which provides the best performance for a given installation and environment.

NOTE For a thorough, rigorous discussion of measurement noise, shielding and filtering, see "Noise Reduction Techniques in Electronic Systems" by Henry W. Ott of Bell Laboratories, published by Wiley & Sons, ISBN 0-471-85068-3.

Noise Due to Inadequate Card Grounding

If either or both of the VT1419A and Agilent/HP E1482 (MXI Extender Modules) are not securely screwed into the VXIbus Mainframe, noise can be generated. Make sure that both screws (top and bottom) are screwed in tight. If not, it is possible that CVT data could be more noisy than FIFO data because the CVT is located in A24 space, the FIFO in A16 space; more lines moving could cause noisier readings.

VT1419A Noise Rejection

See Figure D-2 for the following discussion.

Normal Mode Noise (Enm)

This noise is actually present at the signal source and is a differential noise (Hi to Lo). It is what is filtered out by the buffered filters on the VT1502A, VT1503A, VT1508A and VT1509A SCPs.

Common Mode Noise (Ecm)

This noise is common to both the Hi and Lo differential signal inputs. Low frequency Ecm is very effectively rejected by a good differential instrumentation amplifier and it can be averaged out when measured through the Direct Input SCP (VT1501A). However, high frequency Ecm is rectified and generates an offset with the amplifier and filter SCPs (such as VT1502A, VT1503A, VT1508A, and VT1509A). This is since these SCPs have buffer-amplifiers on board and is a characteristic of amplifiers. The best way to deal with this is to prevent the noise from getting into the amplifier.

Keeping Common Mode Noise out of the Amplifier

Most common mode noise is about 60 Hz, so the differential amplifier rejection is very good. The amplifier Common Mode Noise characteristics are:

120 dB flat to 300 Hz, then 20 dB/octave rolloff

The VT1419A amplifiers are selected for low gain error, offset, temperature drift and low power. These characteristics are generally incompatible with good high frequency CMR performance. More expensive, high performance amplifiers can solve this problem, but since they aren't required for many systems, elected to handle this with the High Frequency Common Mode Filter option to the VT1586A Remote Rack Panel (VT1586A-001, RF Filter) discussed below.

Shielded, twisted pair lead wire generally does a good job of keeping high frequency common mode noise out of the amplifier, provided the shield is connected to the VT1419A chassis ground through a very low impedance. (Not via the guard terminal - The VT1419A guard terminal connection shown in the VT1419A User's manual does not consider the high frequency Ecm problem and is there to limit the shield current and to allow the DUT to float up to some dc common mode voltage subject to the maximum ±16 volt input specification limit.

This conflicts with the often recommended good practice of grounding the shield at the signal source, and only at that point, to eliminate line frequency ground loops which can be high enough to burn up a shield. It is recommended that this practice be followed and if high frequency common mode noise is seen (or suspected), tie the shield to the VT1419A ground through a 0.1 μF capacitor. At high frequencies, this drives the shield voltage to 0 volts at the VT1419A input. Due to inductive coupling to the signal leads, the Ecm voltage on the signal leads is also driven to zero.

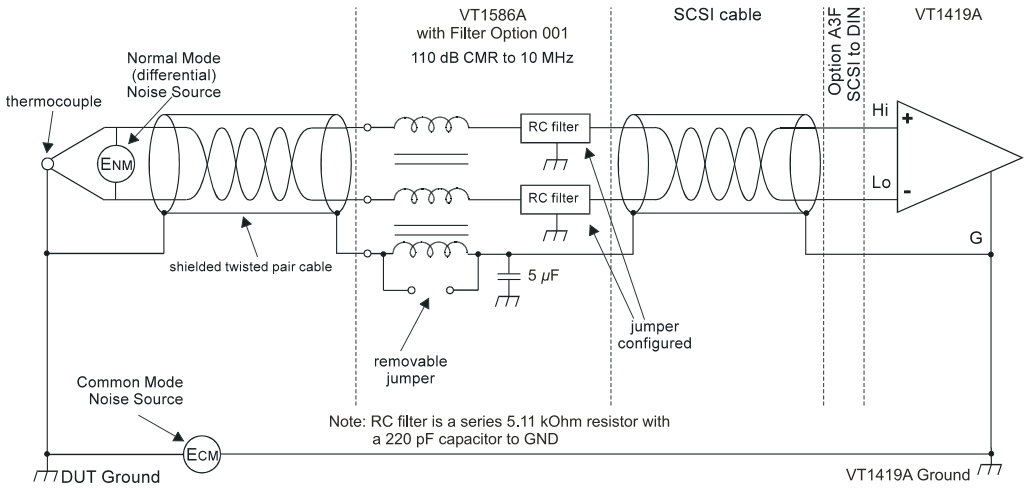


Figure D-2: HF Common Mode Filters

Reducing Common Mode Rejection Using Tri-Filar Transformers

One VT1413 customer determined that greater than 100 dB CMR to 10 MHz was required to get good thermocouple (TC) measurements in his test environment. To accomplish this requires the use of tri-filar transformers which are an option to the VT1586A Remote Rack Terminal Panel. (This also provides superior isothermal reference block performance for thermocouple measurements.) This works by virtue of the inductance in the shield connected winding presenting a significant impedance to high frequency common mode noise and forcing all the noise voltage to be dropped across the winding. The common mode noise at the input amplifier side of the winding is forced to 0 volts by virtue of the low impedance connection to the VT1419A ground via the selectable short or parallel combination of 1 kΩ and 0.1 μF. The short can't be used in situations where there is a very high common mode voltage, (dc and/or ac) that could generate very large shield currents.

The tight coupling through the transformer windings into the signal Hi and Low leads, forces the common mode noise at the input amplifier side of those windings to 0 volts. This achieves the 110 dB to 10 MHz desired, keeping the high frequency common mode noise out of the amplifier, thus preventing the amplifier from rectifying this into an offset error.

This effectively does the same thing that shielded, twisted pair cable does, only better. It is especially effective if the shield connection to the VT1419A ground can't be a very low impedance due to large dc and/or low frequency common mode voltages.

The tri-filar transformers don't limit the differential (normal mode) signal bandwidth. Thus, removing the requirement for "slowly varying signal voltages." The nature of the tri-filar transformer or, more accurately, common-mode inductor, is that it provides a fairly high impedance to common mode signals and a quite low impedance to differential mode signals. The ratio of common-mode impedance to differential-mode impedance for the transformer used is ~ 3500:1. Thus, there is NO differential mode bandwidth penalty incurred by using the tri-filar transformers.

Appendix E
Generating User Defined Functions

Introduction

The VT1419A Multifunction^{Plus} Measurement and Control Module has a limited set of mathematical operations such as add, subtract, multiply and divide. Many control applications require functions such a square root for calculating flow rate or a trigonometric function to correctly transition motion of an actuator from a start to ending position. In order to represent a sine wave or other transcendental functions, one could use a power series expansion to approximate the function using a finite number of algebraic expressions. Since the above mentioned operations can take from 1.5 μs to 4 μs for each floating point calculation, a complex waveform such as sine(x) could take more than 100 μs to get the desired result. A faster solution is desirable and available.

The VT1419A provides a solution to approximating such complex waveforms by using a piece-wise linearization of virtually any complex waveform. The technique is simple. The CD ROM supplied with the VT1419A contains the Agilent VEE program "*fn_1419.vee*" that builds user defined functions and loads them into the VT1419A. The VEE module calls a 'C' function (source code supplied) that actually calculates 128 Mx+B segments over a specified range of values for the desired function. Supply the function; the program generates the segments in a table. The "*fn_1419.vee*" program can be merged into the Agilent VEE application program. Another Agilent VEE example program, "*eufn1419.vee*," shows how to apply "*fn_1419.vee*." Up to 32 functions can be created for use in algorithms. At runtime where the function is passed an 'x' value, the time to calculate the Mx+B function is approximately 18 μs.

The VT1419A actually uses this technique to convert volts to temperature, strain, etc. The accuracy of the approximation is really based upon how well the range is selected over which the table is built. For thermocouple temperature conversion, the VT1419A fixes the range to the lowest A/D range (±64 mV) so that small microvolt measurements yield the proper resolution of the actual temperature for a non-linear transducer. In addition, the VT1419A permits Custom Engineering Unit conversions to be created for user transducers so that, when the voltage measurement is actually made, the EU conversion takes place (see SENS:FUNC:CUST). Algorithms deal with the resulting floating point numbers generated during the measurement phase and may require further complex mathematical operations to achieve the desired result.

With some complex waveforms, it may be beneficial to break up the waveform into several functions in order to get the desired accuracy. For example, suppose square root function is needed for both voltage and strain calculations. The voltages are only going to range from 0 to ±16 volts, worst case. The strain measurements return numbers in microstrain which range in the 1000's. Trying to represent the square root function over the entire range would severely impact the accuracy of the approximation. Remember, the entire range is broken up into only 128 segments of

M*x*+B operations. To increase accuracy, the range over which calculations are made must be limited. Many transcendental functions are simply used as a scaling multiplier. For example, a sine wave function is typically created over a range of 360 degrees or 2π radians. After which, the function repeats itself. It's a simple matter to make sure the '*x*' term is scaled to this range before calculating the result. This concept should be used almost exclusively to obtain the best results.

Haversine Example

The following is an example of creating a haversine function (a sine wave over the range of -π/2 to π/2). The resulting function represents a fairly accurate approximation of this non-linear waveform when limited to the range indicated. Since the tables must be built upon binary boundaries (e.g. 0.125, 0.25, 0.5, 1, 2, 4, etc.) and since π/2 is a number greater than 1 but less than 2, the next binary interval to include this range will be 2. Another requirement for building the table is that the waveform range MUST be centered around 0 (e.g. symmetrical about the X-axis). If the desired function is not defined on one side or the other of the Y-axis, then the table is right or left shifted by the offset from X = 0 and the table values are calculated correctly, but the table is built as though it were centered about the X-axis. For the most part, the last couple of sentences can be ignored if they do not make sense. The only reason its brought up here is that accuracy may suffer the farther away from the X = 0 point the waveform gets unless the resolution available is understood and the amount of non-linearity present in the waveform is known. This will be discussed later in the "Limitations" section.

Figure E-1 shows the haversine function as stated above. This type of waveform is typical of the kind of acceleration and deceleration one wants when moving an object from one point to another. The desired beginning point would be the location at -π/2 and the ending point would be at π/2. With the desired range spread over ±π/2, the 128 segments are actually divided over the range of ±2. Therefore, the 128 M*x*+B line segments are divided equally on both sides of X = 0:64 segments for 0..2 and 64 segments for -2..0.

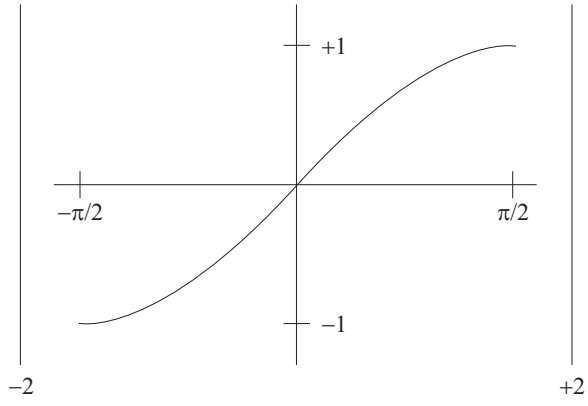


Figure E-1: Haversine Function

A typical use of this function would be to output an analog voltage or current at each Scan Trigger of the VT1419A and over the range of the haversine. For example, suppose a new position of an analog output to move from 1 mA to 3 mA over a period of 100 ms is required. If the TRIG:TIMER setting or the EXTernal trigger was set to 2 ms, then force fifty intervals over the range of the haversine. This can be easily done by using a scalar variable to count the number of times the algorithm has executed and to scale the variable value to the $-\pi/2$ to $\pi/2$ range. 3 mA is multiplied times the custom function result over each interval which will yield the shape of the haversine $0.003 \times \sin(x) + 0.001$.

Try the "*eufn1419.vee*" example program and define some custom functions to illustrate this discussion.

Table 1 shows some examples of the accuracy of the custom function with various input values compared to an evaluation of the actual transcendental function found in 'C' or RMB. Please note that the M*x*+B segments are located on boundaries specified by 2/64 on each side of X = 0. This means that if the exact input value is selected that was used for the beginning of each segment, the exact value of the function at that point will be calculated. Any point between segments will be an approximation dependent upon the linearity of that segment. Also note that values of X = 2 and X = -2 will result in Y = infinity.

'C' sin(-1.570798)	-1.000000	'VT1419A' sin(-1.570798)	-0.999905
'C' sin(-1.256639)	-0.951057	'VT1419A' sin(-1.256639)	-0.950965
'C' sin(-0.942479)	-0.809018	'VT1419A' sin(-0.942479)	-0.808944
'C' sin(-0.628319)	-0.587786	'VT1419A' sin(-0.628319)	-0.587740
'C' sin(-0.314160)	-0.309017	'VT1419A' sin(-0.314160)	-0.308998
'C' sin(0.000000)	0.000000	'VT1419A' sin(0.000000)	0.000000
'C' sin(0.314160)	0.309017	'VT1419A' sin(0.314160)	0.308998
'C' sin(0.628319)	0.587786	'VT1419A' sin(0.628319)	0.587740
'C' sin(0.942479)	0.809018	'VT1419A' sin(0.942479)	0.808944
'C' sin(1.256639)	0.951057	'VT1419A' sin(1.256639)	0.950965
'C' sin(1.570798)	1.000000	'VT1419A' sin(1.570798)	0.999905

Table 1. 'C' Sin(*x*) Vs. VT1419A Haversine Function for Selected Points

Limitations

As stated earlier, there are limitations to using this custom function technique. These limitations are directly proportional to the non-linearity of the desired waveform. For example, suppose the function X*X*X (or X^3) is to be represented over a range of ±1000. The resulting binary range would be ±1024 and the segments would be partitioned at 1024/64 intervals. This means that every 16 units would yield an M*x*+B calculation over that segment. As long as numbers are inputted that are VERY close the cardinal points, good values will result. Strictly speaking, perfect results will be received only when calculated at the cardinal points, which may be reasonable for an application if the input values are limited to exactly those 128 points.

The waveform may also be shifted anywhere along the X-axis and Build_table() will provide the necessary offset calculations to generate the proper table. Be aware, too, that shifting the table out to greater magnitudes of X may also impact the precision of the results depending upon the linearity of the waveform. Suffice it to say, the best results will be produced and it will be easiest to comprehend what is being done if the waveform stays near the X = 0 point since most of the measurement results will have 1e-6..16 values for volts.

One final note. Truncation errors may be seen in the fourth digit of the results. This is because only 15 bits of the input value is sent to the function. This occurs because the same technique used for Custom EU conversion is used here and the method assumes input values are from the 16 bit A/D (15 bits = sign bit). This is evident in Table 1 where the first and last entries return ±0.9999 rather than ±1. For most applications this accuracy should be more than adequate.

Index

!

(First_loop), determining first execution, 111
(FM), fixed width pulses at variable frequency, 70
(FM), variable frequency square-wave output, 70
(Important!), performing channel calibration, 71 - 72
(PWM), variable width pulses at fixed frequency, 69
*CAL?, how to use, 71
*RST
    and power-on defaults, 53
4-20 mA, adding sense circuits for, 43

A

A common error to avoid, 116
A complete thermocouple measurement command sequence, 64
A very simple first algorithm, 120
Abbreviated Commands, 178
ABORt subsystem, 185
abs(expression), 124
Access, bitfield, 127
Accessing I/O channels, 110
Accessing the VT1419A's resources, 109 - 113
Accessories
    Rack Mount Terminal Panel, 46
Accuracy
    dc volts, 330
    Sample timer, 329
    Temperature, 331
Adding settling delay for specific channels, 103
Adding terminal module components, 43
Additive-expression:, 130
Additive-operator:, 130
ADDRess
    MEM:VME:ADDR, 242
ADDRess?
    MEM:VME:ADDR?, 242
After INIT, 52
ALG:DEFINE in the programming sequence, 116
ALG:DEFINE's three data formats, 117
ALGorithm :EXPLicit :ARRay, 187
ALGorithm :EXPLicit :ARRay?, 188
ALGorithm :EXPLicit :DEFine, 188
ALGorithm :EXPLicit :SCALar, 192
ALGorithm :EXPLicit :SCALar?, 193
ALGorithm :EXPLicit :SCAN:RATio, 193
ALGorithm :EXPLicit :SIZe?, 194
ALGorithm :EXPLicit :STATe, 195
ALGorithm :EXPLicit :STATe?, 196
ALGorithm :EXPLicit :TIMe?, 196
Algorithm definition, 74
Algorithm execution order, 116
ALGorithm EXPLicit :SCAN:RATio?, 194
Algorithm Language reference, 122 - 128
Algorithm language statement
    writecvt(), 112
    writefifo(), 113
Algorithm, A very simple first, 120
Algorithm, data acquisition, 121
Algorithm, exiting the, 124
Algorithm, process monitoring, 121
Algorithm, running the, 120
Algorithm, writing the, 120
ALGorithm:FUNCtion:DEFine, 197
ALGorithm:OUTPut:DELay, 198
ALGorithm:OUTPut:DELay?, 199
ALGorithm:UPDate :IMMediate , 199
ALGorithm:UPDate:CHANnel, 200
ALGorithm:UPDate:WINDow, 202
ALGorithm:UPDate:WINDow?, 203
Algorithm-definition:, 132
Algorithms
    disabling, 85
    enabling, 85
Algorithms, defining, 116 - 119
Algorithms, INITiating/Running, 80
Algorithms, non-control, 121
Algorithms, starting, 80
ALL?
    DATA:FIFO:ALL?, 261
AMPLitude
    OUTP:CURRent:AMPLitude, 245
    OUTPut:CURRent:AMPLitude?, 246
An example using the operation group, 91
APERture
    SENSe:FREQuency:APERture, 266
APERture?
    SENSe:FREQuency:APERture?, 267
Arithmetic operators, 123
Arm and trigger sources, 77
ARM subsystem, 204 - 206
ARM:SOURce, 205
ARM:SOURce?, 206
ARRay

ALGorithm :EXPLicit , 187
ARRay?
ALGorithm :EXPLicit , 188
Assigning values, 133
Assignment operator, 123
Attaching and removing the terminal module, 41 - 42
Attaching the terminal module, 39 - 40
Attaching the VT1419A terminal module, 41 - 42
Autoranging, more on, 101
Available Power for SCPs, 329

B

Before INIT, 52
Bitfield access, 127
Bit-number:, 130
BLOCK), continuously reading the FIFO (FIFO mode, 83
Byte, enabling events to be reported in the status, 91
Byte, reading the status, 92

C

C language algorithms
defining, 73 - 74
CAL:CONF:RES, 208
CAL:CONF:VOLT, 209
CAL:SETup, 210
CAL:SETup?, 210
CAL:STORe, 211
CAL:TARE, 212
CAL:TARE and thermocouples, 98
CAL:TARE, resetting, 99
CAL:TARE:RESet, 214
CAL:TARE?, 214
CAL:VAL:RESistance, 214
CAL:VAL:VOLTage, 215
CAL:ZERO?, 216
CALibration subsystem, 207 - 217
Calibration, channel
*CAL?, 311
Calibration, control of, 21
Calling user defined functions, 114
Capability, maximum tare, 99
CAUTIONS
Loss of process control by algorithm, 185, 195, 305
Safe handling procedures, 16
Certification, 2
Changing an algorithm while it’s running, 118
Changing gains, 99
Changing gains or filters, 99
Changing timer interval while scanning, 308
CHANnel
ALGorithm:UPDate:CHANnel, 200
Channel calibration
*CAL?, 311
Channels
defined input, 111
output, 56 - 70, 111
setting up analog input, 56 - 65
setting up digital input, 66 - 70
CHANnels
SENSe:REFerence:CHANnels, 278
Channels, accessing I/O, 110
Channels, adding settling delay for specific, 103
Channels, input, 110
Channels, output, 110
Channels, special identifiers for, 123
Characteristics, settling, 101 - 104
Checking for problems, 102
CHECksum?
DIAG:CHECK?, 221
Clearing event registers, 94
Clearing the enable registers, 93
Coefficients, 85
Command
Abbreviated, 178
Implied, 179
Linking, 181
Separator, 178
Command Quick Reference, 321, 323 - 328
Command Reference, Common
*CAL?, 311
*CLS, 312
*DMC, 312
*EMC, 312
*EMC?, 312
*ESE, 312
*ESE?, 313
*ESR?, 313
*GMC?, 313
*IDN?, 313
*LMC?, 313
*OPC, 314
*OPC?, 314
*PMC, 315
*RMC, 315
*RST, 315
*SRE, 316
*SRE?, 316
*STB?, 316
*TRG, 316
*TST?, 317
*WAI, 320
Command Reference, SCPI, 184
ABORt subsystem, 185
ALGorithm :EXPLicit , 187 - 188, 192 - 195
ALGorithm :EXPLicit :DEFine, 188
ALGorithm :EXPLicit :SCAN, 194
ALGorithm :EXPLicit :SCAN:RATio, 193
ALGorithm :EXPLicit :STATe?, 196
ALGorithm :EXPLicit :TIMe?, 196
ALGorithm:FUNCtion:DEFine, 197

ALGorithm:OUTPut:DELay, 198
ALGorithm:OUTPut:DELay?, 199
ALGorithm:UPDate :IMMediate , 199
ALGorithm:UPDate:CHANnel, 200
ALGorithm:UPDate:WINDow, 202
ALGorithm:UPDate:WINDow?, 203
ARM subsystem, 204 - 206
ARM:IMMediate, 205
ARM:SOURce, 205
ARM:SOURce?, 206
CALibration subsystem, 207 - 217
CALibration:CONFigure:RESistance, 208
CALibration:CONFigure:VOLTage, 209
CALibration:SETup, 210
CALibration:SETup?, 210
CALibration:STORe, 211
CALibration:TARE, 212
CALibration:TARE:RESet, 214
CALibration:TARE?, 214
CALibration:VALue:RESistance, 214
CALibration:VALue:VOLTage, 215
CALibration:ZERO?, 216
DIAGnostic subsystem, 218 - 226
DIAGnostic:CALibration:SETup :MODE , 219
DIAGnostic:CALibration:SETup :MODE ?, 219
DIAGnostic:CALibration:TARe:MODE, 220
DIAGnostic:CALibration:TARe:MODE?, 220
DIAGnostic:CHECksum?, 221
DIAGnostic:CUSTom:LINear, 221
DIAGnostic:CUSTom:PIECewise, 222
DIAGnostic:CUSTom:REFerence:TEMPerature, 222
DIAGnostic:IEEE, 223
DIAGnostic:IEEE?, 223
DIAGnostic:INTerrupt:LINe, 223
DIAGnostic:INTerrupt:LINe?, 224
DIAGnostic:OTDetect :STATe , 224
DIAGnostic:OTDetect :STATe ?, 225
DIAGnostic:QUERy:SCPREAD, 225
DIAGnostic:VERSion?, 226
FETCh?, 227
FETCh? subsystem, 227 - 228
FORMat subsystem, 229 - 231
FORMat:DATA, 229
FORMat:DATA?, 230
INITiate subsystem, 232
INITiate:IMMediate, 232
INP:THReshold:LEVel?, 239
INPut subsystem, 233 - 240
INPut:FILTer:LPASs:FREQuency?, 235
INPut:FILTer:LPASs:STATe, 236
INPut:FILTer:LPASs:STATe?, 236
INPut:GAIN, 237
INPut:GAIN?, 237
INPut:L:DEBounce:TIME, 233
INPut:LOW, 238
INPut:LOW?, 238
INPut:LPASs:FILTer:FREQuency, 234
INPut:POLarity, 239
INPut:POLarity?, 239
MEMory subsystem, 241 - 244
MEMory:VME:ADDRess, 242
MEMory:VME:ADDRess?, 242
MEMory:VME:SIZE, 242
MEMory:VME:SIZE?, 243
MEMory:VME:STATe, 243
MEMory:VME:STATe?, 244
OUTPut subsystem, 245 - 253
OUTPut:CURRent:AMPLitude, 245
OUTPut:CURRent:AMPLitude?, 246
OUTPut:CURRent:STATe, 247
OUTPut:CURRent:STATe?, 247
OUTPut:POLarity, 248
OUTPut:POLarity?, 248
OUTPut:SHUNt, 248
OUTPut:SHUNt?, 249
OUTPut:TTLTrg:SOURce, 249
OUTPut:TTLTrg:SOURce?, 250
OUTPut:TTLTrg<n>:STATe, 250
OUTPut:TTLTrg<n>:STATe?, 251
OUTPut:TYPE, 251
OUTPut:TYPE?, 252
OUTPut:VOLTage:AMPLitude, 252
OUTPut:VOLTage:AMPLitude?, 252
ROUTe subsystem, 254 - 255
ROUTe:SEQuence:DEFine?, 254
ROUTe:SEQuence:POINts?, 255
SAMPle subsystem, 256 - 257
SAMPle:TIMer, 256
SAMPle:TIMer?, 256
SENSe subsystem, 258 - 284
SENSe:CHANnel:SETTling, 259
SENSe:CHANnel:SETTling?, 260
SENSe:DATA:COUN:HALF?, 263
SENSe:DATA:CVTable:RESet, 261
SENSe:DATA:CVTable?, 260
SENSe:DATA:FIFO:ALL?, 261
SENSe:DATA:FIFO:COUNt?, 262
SENSe:DATA:FIFO:HALF?, 263
SENSe:DATA:FIFO:MODE, 264
SENSe:DATA:FIFO:MODE?, 264
SENSe:DATA:FIFO:PART?, 265
SENSe:DATA:FIFO:RESet, 265
SENSe:FREQuency:APERture, 266
SENSe:FREQuency:APERture?, 267
SENSe:FUNC:CONDition, 267
SENSe:FUNCtion:CUSTom, 268
SENSe:FUNCtion:CUSTom:REFerence, 269
SENSe:FUNCtion:CUSTom:TCouple, 270
SENSe:FUNCtion:FREQuency, 271
SENSe:FUNCtion:RESistance, 271
SENSe:FUNCtion:STRain:FBEN, 272
SENSe:FUNCtion:STRain:FBP, 272
SENSe:FUNCtion:STRain:FPO, 272
SENSe:FUNCtion:STRain:HBEN, 272
SENSe:FUNCtion:STRain:QUAR, 272
SENSe:FUNCtion:STRainHPO:, 272

SENSe:FUNCtion:TEMPerature, 274
SENSe:FUNCtion:TOTalize, 275
SENSe:FUNCtion:VOLTage, 276
SENSe:REFerence, 277
SENSe:REFerence:CHANnels, 278
SENSe:REFerence:TEMPerature, 279
SENSe:STRain:EXCitation, 279
SENSe:STRain:EXCitation?, 280
SENSe:STRain:GFACtor, 280
SENSe:STRain:GFACtor?, 280
SENSe:STRain:POISson, 281
SENSe:STRain:POISson?, 281
SENSe:STRain:UNSTrained, 282
SENSe:STRain:UNSTrained?, 282
SENSe:TOTalize:RESet:MODE, 283
SENSe:TOTalize:RESet:MODE?, 284
SOURce subsystem, 285, 287 - 290
SOURce:FM:STATe, 285
SOURce:FM:STATe?, 286
SOURce:FUNC :SHAPe :CONDition, 286
SOURce:FUNC :SHAPe :PULSe, 287
SOURce:FUNC :SHAPe :SQUare, 287
SOURce:PULM:STATe, 287
SOURce:PULM:STATe?, 288
SOURce:PULSe:PERiod, 288
SOURce:PULSe:PERiod?, 289
SOURce:PULSe:WIDTh, 289
SOURce:PULSe:WIDTh?, 289
STATus subsystem, 291, 293 - 302
STATus:OPERation:CONDition?, 293
STATus:OPERation:ENABle, 294
STATus:OPERation:ENABle?, 294
STATus:OPERation:EVENt?, 295
STATus:OPERation:NTRansition, 295
STATus:OPERation:NTRansition?, 296
STATus:OPERation:PTRansition, 296
STATus:OPERation:PTRansition?, 297
STATus:PRESet, 297
STATus:QUEStionable:CONDition?, 298
STATus:QUEStionable:ENABle, 299
STATus:QUEStionable:ENABle?, 299
STATus:QUEStionable:EVENt?, 299
STATus:QUEStionable:NTRansition, 300
STATus:QUEStionable:NTRansition?, 301
STATus:QUEStionable:PTRansition, 301
STATus:QUEStionable:PTRansition?, 302
SYSTem subsystem, 303
SYSTem:CTYPe?, 303
SYSTem:ERRor?, 304
SYSTem:VERSion?, 304
TRIGger subsystem, 305 - 310
TRIGger:COUNt, 307
TRIGger:COUNt?, 307
TRIGger:IMMediate, 308
TRIGger:SOURce, 308
TRIGger:SOURce?, 309
TRIGger:TIMer, 309
TRIGger:TIMer?, 310
Command sequences, defined, 23
Comment lines, 136
Common Command Format, 178
Common mode noise, 374
Common mode rejection, 330
Common mode voltage
    Maximum, 330
Common mode voltage limits, 373
Comparison operators, 123
Compensating for system offsets, 97 - 99
Compensation, thermocouple reference temperature, 63
Components, adding terminal module, 43
Compound-statement:, 132
CONDition
    SENSe:FUNC:CONDition, 267
    SOURce:FUNC :SHAPe :CONDition, 286
    STAT:OPER:CONDition?, 293
CONDition?
    STAT:QUES:CONDition?, 298
Conditional constructs, 124
Conditional execution, 134
Configuring programmable analog SCP parameters, 56
Configuring the enable registers, 91
Configuring the Reference Jumpers, 34 - 35
Configuring the transition filters, 91
Configuring the VT1419A, 15 - 22
Connection
    recommended, 36 - 38
    signals to channels, 36 - 38
Connections
    Guard, 373
Considerations, special, 99
Constant:, octal, 129
Constructs, conditional, 124
Continuous Mode, 308
Continuously reading the FIFO (FIFO mode BLOCK), 83
Control, program flow, 124
Conversion, EU, 368
Conversion, linking channels to EU, 58
Conversions, custom EU, 66
Conversions, custom reference temperature EU, 97
Conversions, custom thermocouple EU, 97
COUNt?
    SENS:DATA:FIFO:COUNt?, 262
Counter, setting the trigger, 79
Creating and loading custom EU conversion tables, 96
Creating conversion tables, 97
CTYPe?
    SYST:CTYPe?, 303
Current Value Table
    SENSe:DATA:CVTable?, 260
CUSTom
    SENS:FUNC:CUSTom, 268
Custom EU conversion tables
    creating, 96

loading, 96
Custom EU conversions, 66
Custom EU operation, 96
Custom EU tables, 96
Custom reference temperature EU conversions, 97
Custom thermocouple EU conversions, 97
CVT
SENSe:DATA:CVTable?, 260
CVT elements, reading, 113
CVT elements, writing value to, 112
CVT, sending data to, 112

D

DATA
FORMat:DATA, 229
FORMat:DATA?, 230
Data acquisition algorithm, 121
Data structures, 126
Data types, 125
Data, retrieving algorithm, 81 - 84
DATA:FIFO:ALL?, 261
Decimal constant:, 129
Declaration initialization, 127
Declaration:, 132
Declarations:, 132
Declarator:, 131
Declaring variables, 133
Defaults
power-on and *RST, 53
DEFine
ALGorithm :EXPLicit , 188
ALGorithm:FUNCtion:DEFine, 197
ROUT:SEQ:DEF?, 254
Defined input and output channels, 111
Defining algorithms, 116 - 119
Defining an algorithm for swapping, 118
Defining and accessing global variables, 111
Defining C language algorithms, 73 - 74
Defining data storage, 75 - 76
DELay
ALGorithm:OUTPut:DELay, 198
DELay?
ALGorithm:OUTPut:DELay?, 199
Detecting open transducers, 100
Determining an algorithm’s size, 119
Determining first execution (First_loop), 111
Determining model
SCPI programming, 313
DIAG:CHECK?, 221
DIAG:CUST:REF:TEMP, 222
DIAG:INT:LINe, 223
DIAG:INT:LINe?, 224
DIAG:OTD :STATe , 224
DIAG:OTD :STATe ?, 225
DIAG:VERSion?, 226
DIAGnostic
DIAGnostic:CALibration:SETup :MODE , 219
DIAGnostic:CALibration:SETup :MODE ?, 219
DIAGnostic:CALibration:TARe:MODE, 220
DIAGnostic:CALibration:TARe:MODE?, 220
DIAGnostic:CUSTom:LINear, 221
DIAGnostic:CUSTom:PIECewise, 222
DIAGnostic:IEEE, 223
DIAGnostic:IEEE?, 223
DIAGnostic:QUERy:SCPREAD, 225
DIAGnostic:CALibration:SETup :MODE , 219
DIAGnostic:CALibration:SETup :MODE ?, 219
DIAGnostic:CALibration:TARe:MODE, 220
DIAGnostic:CALibration:TARe:MODE?, 220
DIAGnostic:CUSTom:LINear, 221
DIAGnostic:CUSTom:PIECewise, 222
DIAGnostic:IEEE, 223
DIAGnostic:IEEE?, 223
DIAGnostic:OTDetect, 101
DIAGnostic:QUERy:SCPREAD, 225
Digital evaluation of type float, 127
Directly, reading status groups, 93
Disabling flash memory access (optional), 21
Disabling the input protect feature (optional), 21
Does, what *CAL?, 71
Drivers, 23
DSP, 368

E

ENABle
STAT:OPER:ENABle, 294
STAT:QUES:ENABle, 299
ENABle?
STAT:OPER:ENABle?, 294
STAT:QUES:ENABle?, 299
Enabling and disabling algorithms, 85
Enabling events to be reported in the status byte, 91
Environment, the algorithm execution, 108
Equality-expression:, 131
Equality-operator:, 131
Error Messages, 359 - 366
Self Test, 361
ERRor?
SYST:ERRor?, 304
EU, 368
EU Conversion, 368
EVENt?
STAT:OPER:EVENt?, 295
STAT:QUES:EVENt?, 299
Example command sequence, 86 - 87
Example language usage, 107
Example programs, about, 23
Examples, operation status group, 92

Examples, questionable data group, 91
Examples, standard event group, 92
EXCitation
SENSe:STRain:EXCitation, 279
SENSe:STRain:EXCitation?, 280
Executing the programming model, 53 - 55
Execution, conditional, 134
Exiting the algorithm, 124
Expression:, 131
Expression-statement:, 132

F

Faceplate connector pin-signal lists, 29
FIFO, reading values from the, 113
FIFO, sending data to, 112
FIFO, time relationship of readings in, 113
FIFO, writing values to, 113
Filters, 99
Filters, adding circuits to terminal module, 43
Filters, configuring the transition, 91
Fixed width pulses at variable frequency (FM), 70
Fixing the problem, 102
Flash Memory, 368
Flash memory access, disabling, 21
Flash memory limited lifetime, 211
Floating point as integer, 127
FM:STATe
SOURce:FM:STATe, 285
FM:STATe?
SOURce:FM:STATe?, 286
Format
Common Command, 178
SCPI Command, 178
Format, specifying the data, 75
FORMat:DATA, 229
FORMat:DATA?, 230
Formats, ALG:DEFINE's three data, 117
FREQuency
INPut:FILT:FREQ, 234
SENSe:FUNCtion:FREQuency, 271
Frequency function, 67
Frequency, setting algorithm execution, 86
Frequency, setting filter cutoff, 57
FREQuency?
INP:FILT:FREQ?, 235
Function, frequency, 67
Function, setting input, 67
Function, static state (CONDition), 67, 69
Function, the main, 108
Function, totalizer, 67
Functions and statements, intrinsic
abs(expression), 124
interrupt(), 113, 124
max(expression1,expression2), 124
min(expression1,expression2), 124
writeboth(expression,cvt_element), 124
writecvt(expression,cvt_element), 112, 124
writefifo(expression), 113, 124
Functions, calling user defined, 114
Functions, linking output channels to, 66
Functions, setting output, 69
Functions:, 124

G

Gain
channel, 311
GAIN
INPut:GAIN, 237
GAIN?
INP:GAIN?, 237
Gains, setting SCP, 56
GFACtor
SENSe:STRain:GFACtor, 280
SENSe:STRain:GFACtor?, 280
Global variable definition, 73
Global variables, 128
accessing, 111
defining, 111
Glossary, 367 - 369
Grounding
Noise due to inadequate, 373
Group, an example using the operation, 91
Guard connections, 373

H

HALF?
SENS:DATA:FIFO:COUNt:HALF?, 263
SENS:DATA:FIFO:HALF?, 263
HINTS
for quiet measurements, 36
Read chapter 3 before chapter 4, 105
How to use *CAL?, 71

I

Identifiers, 122
IEEE +/- INF, 230
IMMediate
ALGorithm:UPDate :IMMediate , 199
ARM:IMMediate, 205
INIT:IMM, 232
TRIG:IMMediate, 308
Impedance, input, 330
Implied Commands, 179
IMPORTANT!
Don't use CAL:TARE for thermocouple wiring, 98
IMPORTANT!
Do use CAL:TARE for copper TC wiring, 98
INF, IEEE, 230

INIT
after, 52
before, 52
INIT:IMM, 232
Init-declarator:, 131
Init-declarator-list:, 131
Initialization, declaration, 127
Initializing variables, 112
INITiate subsystem, 232
INITiating/Running algorithms, 80
INP:FILT:FREQ?, 235
INP:FILT:LPAS:STAT, 236
INP:FILT:LPAS:STAT?, 236
INP:GAIN?, 237
Input channels, 110
Input impedance, 330
Input protect feature, disabling, 21
INPut subsystem, 233 - 240
Input voltage, maximum, 330
INPut:DEB:TIME, 233
INPut:FILT:FREQ, 234
INPut:GAIN, 237
INPut:LOW, 238
INPut:LOW?, 238
INPut:POLarity, 239
INPut:POLarity?, 239
INPut:THReshold:LEVel?, 239
Inputs, setting up digital, 66
Installing signal conditioning plug-ons, 16
Instrument drivers, 23
Integer evaluation of type float, 127
Integer values from type float, 127
Interrupt function, 113
Interrupt level, setting NOTE, 15
interrupt(), 113, 124
Interrupts
updating the status system, 95
VXI, 95
Intrinsic functions and statements
abs(expression), 124
interrupt(), 124
max(expression1,expression2), 124
min(expression1,expression2), 124
writeboth(expression,cvt_element), 124
writecvt(expression,cvt_element), 112, 124
writefifo(expression), 113, 124
Intrinsic Functions and Statements
interrupt(), 113
Intrinsic-statement:, 132
Isothermal reference measurement, NOTE, 28

K

Keywords, special VT1419A reserved, 122
Keywords, standard reserved, 122

L

Language syntax summary, 129 - 132
Language, overview of the algorithm, 106 - 107
Layout
Terminal Module, 32
LEVel?
INPut:THReshold, 239
Lifetime limitation, Flash memory, 211
Limits
Common mode voltage, 373
LINe
DIAG:INT:LINe, 223
LINe?
DIAG:INT:LINe?, 224
Lines, comment, 136
Linking channels to EU conversion, 58
Linking Commands, 181
Linking output channels to functions, 66
Linking resistance measurements, 60
Linking strain measurements, 65
Linking temperature measurements, 61
Linking voltage measurements, 59
Lists
Faceplate connector pin-signal , 29
Logical operators, 123
Logical-AND-expression:, 131
LOW
INPut:LOW, 238
INPut:LOW?, 238
Low-noise measurements, HINTS, 36

M

max(expression1,expression2), 124
Maximum
Common mode voltage, 330
Input voltage, 330
Tare cal offset, 330
Maximum tare capability, 99
Measurement
accuracy dc volts, 330
Ranges, 329
Resolution, 329
Measurements
terminal block considerations for TC, 35
Measurements, linking resistance, 60
Measurements, linking strain, 65
Measurements, linking temperature, 61
Measurements, linking voltage, 59
Measurements, reference measurement before thermocouple, 64
Measurements, thermocouple, 62
Measuring the reference temperature, 63
MEM:VME:ADDR, 242
MEM:VME:ADDR?, 242

MEM:VME:SIZE, 242
MEM:VME:SIZE?, 243
MEM:VME:STATe, 243
MEM:VME:STATe?, 244
Messages, error, 359 - 366
min(expression1,expression2), 124
MODE
    SENS:DATA:FIFO:MODE, 264
    SENSe:TOTalize:RESet:MODE, 283
Mode, selecting the FIFO, 76
MODE?
    SENS:DATA:FIFO:MODE?, 264
    SENSe:TOTalize:RESet:MODE?, 284
Mode?, which FIFO, 83
Model, determining
    SCPI programming, 313
Modifier, the static, 125
Modifying running algorithm variables, 85
Modifying the terminal module circuit, 43
Module
    SCPs and Terminal, 30
Modules
    Terminal, 30 - 32
More on auto ranging, 101
Multiplicative-expression:, 130
Multiplicative-operator:, 130

N

NaN, 230
Noise
    Common mode, 374
    Normal mode, 374
Noise due to inadequate grounding, 373
Noise reduction with amplifier SCPs, NOTE, 103
Noise reduction, wiring techniques, 372
Noise Rejection, 374
Noisy measurements
    Quieting, 36
Non-Control algorithms, 121
Normal mode noise, 374
Not-a-Number, 230
NOTES
    *CAL? and CAL:TARE turns off then on OTD, 225
    *RST effect on custom EU tables, 96
    *TST? sets default ASC,7 data format, 230
    + & - overvoltage return format from FIFO, 262 - 263, 265
    ALG:SCAN:RATIO vs. ALG:UPD, 193
    ALG:SIZE? return for undefined algorithm, 195
    ALG:STATE effective after ALG:UPDATE, 85
    ALG:STATE effective only after ALG:UPD, 195
    ALG:TIME? return for undefined algorithm, 197
    Algorithm Language case sensitivity, 123
    Algorithm Language reserved keywords, 122
    Algorithm source string terminated with null, 117
    Algorithm source string terminates with null, 190
    Algorithm swapping limitations, 192
    Algorithm Swapping restrictions, 119
    Algorithm variable declaration and assignment, 111
    Amplifier SCPs can reduce measurement noise, 103
    BASIC's vs. 'C's "is equal to" symbol, 134
    Bitfield access 'C' vs. Algorithm Language, 127
    Cannot declare channel ID as variable, 123
    Combining SCPI commands, 182
    CVT contents after *RST, 261
    Decimal constants can be floating or integer, 129
    Default (*RST) Engineering Conversion, 59
    Define user function before algorithm calls , 114
    Do not CAL:TARE thermocouple wiring, 212
    Do use CAL:TARE for copper in TC wiring, 98
    Do use CAL:TARE for copper TC wiring, 212
    Don't use CAL:TARE for thermocouple wiring, 98
    Flash memory limited lifetime, 99, 211
    Isothermal reference measurements, 28
    MEM subsystem vs. command module model, 241
    MEM subsystem vs. TRIG and INIT sequence, 241
    MEM system vs TRIG and INIT sequence, 228
    Memory required by an algorithm, 118
    Number of updates vs. ALG:UPD:WINDOW, 187, 192, 202
    Open transducer detect restrictions, 100
    OUTP:CURR:AMPL command, 58
    OUTP:CURR:AMPL for resistance measurements, 245
    OUTP:VOLT:AMPL command, 58
    Reference to noise reduction literature, 373
    Resistance temperature measurements, 61
    Saving time when doing channel calibration, 72
    Selecting manual range vs. SCP gains, 59
    Setting the interrupt level, 15
    Settings conflict, ARM:SOUR vs TRIG:SOUR, 204, 308
    Thermocouple reference temperature usage, 277, 279
    TRIGger:SOURce vs. ARM:SOURce, 78
    Warmup before executing *TST?, 362
    When algorithm variables are initialized, 128
NTRansition
    STAT:OPER:NTRansition, 295
    STAT:QUES:NTRansition, 300
NTRansition?
    STAT:OPER:NTRansition?, 296
    STAT:QUES:NTRansition?, 301

O

Octal constant:, 129
Offset
    A/D, 210, 311
    channel, 210, 311
Offsets, compensating for system, 97 - 99
Offsets, residual sensor, 98
Offsets, system wiring, 97
Operating model, 52
Operating sequence, 114 - 115

Operation, 71, 98
Operation and restrictions, 71
Operation status group examples, 92
Operation, custom EU, 96
Operation, HP E1419A background, 94
Operation, standard EU, 96
Operator, assignment, 123
Operator, unary arithmetic, 134
Operator, unary logical, 123
Operators, 123
Operators, arithmetic, 123
Operators, comparison, 123
Operators, logical, 123
Operators, the arithmetic, 134
Operators, the comparison, 134
Operators, the logical, 134
Operators, unary, 123
Option A3F, 46
Order, algorithm execution, 116
OTD restrictions, NOTE, 100
OTDetect, DIAGnostic:OTDetect, 101
OUTP:CURRent:AMPLitude, 245
OUTP:CURRent:AMPLitude?, 246
OUTP:SHUNt, 248
OUTP:SHUNt?, 249
OUTP:TTLT<n>:STATe, 250
OUTP:TTLT<n>:STATe?, 251
Output channels, 110
OUTPut subsystem, 245 - 253
OUTPut:CURRent:STATe, 247
OUTPut:CURRent:STATe?, 247
OUTPut:POLarity, 248
OUTPut:POLarity?, 248
OUTPut:TTLTrg:SOURce, 249
OUTPut:TTLTrg:SOURce?, 250
OUTPut:TYPE, 251
OUTPut:TYPE?, 252
OUTPut:VOLTage:AMPLitude, 252
OUTPut:VOLTage:AMPLitude?, 252
Outputs, setting up digital, 67
Outputting trigger signals, 79
OVER), reading the latest FIFO values (FIFO mode, 84
Overall program structure, 137
Overall sequence, 114
Overloads, unexpected channel, 99
Overview of the algorithm language, 106 - 107

P

Parameter data and returned value types, 183
Parameters, configuring programmable analog SCP, 56
PART?
    SENS:DATA:FIFO:PART?, 265
Performing channel calibration (Important!), 71 - 72
PERiod
    SOURce:PULSe:PERiod, 288
PERiod?
    SOURce:PULSe:PERiod?, 289
Planning
    grouping channels to signal conditioning, 25
    planning wiring layout, 25 - 28
    sense vs. output SCPs, 27
    thermocouple wiring, 28
Plug-ons, installing signal conditioning, 16
Points
    ROUT:SEQ:POINts?, 255
POISson
    SENSe:STRain:POISson, 281
    SENSe:STRain:POISson?, 281
POLarity
    INPut:POLarity, 239
    OUTPut:POLarity, 248
Polarity, setting input, 66
Polarity, setting output, 68
POLarity?
    INPut:POLarity?, 239
    OUTPut:POLarity?, 248
Power Available for SCPs, 329
Power-on and *RST defaults, 53
PRESet
    STAT:PRESet, 297
Pre-setting algorithm variables, 74
Primary-expression:, 129
Problem, fixing the, 102
Problems, checking for, 102
Process monitoring algorithm, 121
Program flow control, 124
Program structure and syntax, 133 - 138
Programming model
    executing the, 53 - 55
Programming the trigger timer, 79
PTRansition
    STAT:OPER:PTRansition, 296
    STAT:QUES:PTRansition, 301
PTRansition?
    STAT:OPER:PTRansition?, 297
    STAT:QUES:PTRansition?, 302
PULSe
    SOURce:FUNC :SHAPe :PULSe, 287

Q

Questionable data group examples, 91
Quick Reference, Command, 321, 323 - 328
Quiet measurements, HINTS, 36
Quieter readings with amplifier SCPs, NOTE, 103

R

Rack Mount Terminal Panel Accessories, 46

Ranges, measurement, 329
RATio
    ALGorithm :EXPLicit :SCAN, 193
RATio?
    ALGorithm :EXPLicit :SCAN, 194
Reading condition registers, 94
Reading CVT elements, 113
Reading event registers, 94
Reading status groups directly, 93
Reading the latest FIFO values (FIFO mode OVER), 84
Reading the status byte, 92
Reading values from the FIFO, 113
Recommended measurement connections, 36 - 38
Re-Execute *CAL? when:, 72
REFerence
    SENS:FUNC:CUST:REF, 269
    SENS:REFerence, 277
Reference Jumpers
    configuring the, 34 - 35
Reference junction, 34
Reference measurement before thermocouple measurements, 64
Reference temperature measurement, NOTE, 28
Reference temperature sensing, 33
Reference temperature sensing with the VT1419A, 33
Reference, Algorithm language, 122 - 128
Register, the status byte group's enable, 93
Registers, clearing event, 94
Registers, clearing the enable, 93
Registers, configuring the enable, 91
Registers, reading condition, 94
Registers, reading event, 94
Rejection
    Noise, 374
Rejection, common mode, 330
Relational-expression:, 130
Relational-operator:, 131
Removing the VT1419A terminal module, 41 - 42
Reset
    *RST, 315
RESet
    SENS:DATA:CVT:RESet, 261
    SENS:DATA:FIFO:RESet, 265
Resetting CAL:TARE, 99
Residual sensor offsets, 98
Resistance
    CAL:VAL:RESistance, 214
RESistance
    CAL:CONF:RES, 208
    SENS:FUNC:RESistance, 271
Resolution, measurement, 329
Resources, accessing the VT1419A's, 109 - 113
Restrictions, 71
Retrieving Algorithm Data, 81 - 84
ROUT:SEQ:DEF?, 254
ROUT:SEQ:POINts?, 255
ROUTe subsystem, 254 - 255
RTD and thermistor measurements, 61
Running the algorithm, 120
Running, changing an algorithm while it's, 118

S

Safe Handling, static discharge CAUTION, 16
SAMP:TIMer, 256
SAMP:TIMer?, 256
SAMPle subsystem, 256 - 257
sample timer, accuracy, 329
SCALar
    ALGorithm :EXPLicit , 192
SCALar?
    ALGorithm :EXPLicit , 193
SCP, 368
    grouping channels to signal conditioning, 25
    sense vs. output SCPs, 27
SCP, Power Available, 329
SCP, setting the VT1505A current source, 57
SCPI commands
    DIAGnostic:OTDetect, 101
SCPI Commands, 173
    Format, 178
SCPs and Terminal Module, 30
Selecting the FIFO mode, 76
Selecting the trigger source, 77
Selecting trigger timer arm source, 78
Selection-statement:, 132
Self test
    and C-SCPI for MS-DOS (R), 317
    how to read results, 317
Self Test, error messages, 361
Sending Data to the CVT and FIFO, 112
SENS:DATA:CVT:RESet, 261
SENS:DATA:FIFO:COUNt:HALF?, 263
SENS:DATA:FIFO:COUNt?, 262
SENS:DATA:FIFO:HALF?, 263
SENS:DATA:FIFO:MODE, 264
SENS:DATA:FIFO:MODE?, 264
SENS:DATA:FIFO:PART?, 265
SENS:DATA:FIFO:RESet, 265
SENS:FUNC:CUST:REF, 269
SENS:FUNC:CUST:TC, 270
SENS:FUNC:RESistance, 271
SENS:FUNC:STRain, 272
SENS:FUNC:TEMPerature, 274
SENS:FUNC:VOLTage, 276
SENS:REF:TEMPerature, 279
SENS:REFerence, 277
SENSe subsystem, 258 - 284
SENSe:CHANnel:SETTling, 259
SENSe:CHANnel:SETTling?, 260

SENSe:DATA:CVTable?, 260
SENSe:FREQuency:APERture, 266
SENSe:FREQuency:APERture?, 267
SENSe:FUNC:CONDition, 267
SENSe:FUNC:CUSTom, 268
SENSe:FUNCtion:FREQuency, 271
SENSe:FUNCtion:TOTalize, 275
SENSe:REFerence:CHANnels, 278
SENSe:STRain:EXCitation, 279
SENSe:STRain:EXCitation?, 280
SENSe:STRain:GFACtor, 280
SENSe:STRain:GFACtor?, 280
SENSe:STRain:POISson, 281
SENSe:STRain:POISson?, 281
SENSe:STRain:UNSTrained, 282
SENSe:STRain:UNSTrained?, 282
SENSe:TOTalize:RESet:MODE, 283
SENSe:TOTalize:RESet:MODE?, 284
Sensing
    Reference temperature with the VT1419A, 33
Sensing 4-20 mA, 43
Separator, command, 178
Sequence, A complete thermocouple measurement command, 64
Sequence, ALG:DEFINE in the programming, 116
Sequence, example command, 86 - 87
Sequence, operating, 114 - 115
Sequence, overall, 114
Sequence, the operating, 81
Setting algorithm execution frequency, 86
Setting filter cutoff frequency, 57
Setting input function, 67
Setting input polarity, 66
Setting output drive type, 68
Setting output functions, 69
Setting output polarity, 68
Setting SCP gains, 56
Setting the logical address switch, 15
Setting the trigger counter, 79
Setting the VT1505A current source SCP, 57
Setting the VT1511A strain bridge SCP excitation voltage, 58
Setting up analog input and output channels, 56 - 65
Setting up digital input and output channels, 66 - 70
Setting up digital inputs, 66
Setting up digital outputs, 67
Setting up the trigger system, 77 - 79
Settings conflict
    ARM:SOUR vs TRIG:SOUR, 204, 308
SETTling
    SENSe:CHANnel:SETTling, 259
Settling characteristics, 101 - 104
SETTling?
    SENSe:CHANnel:SETTling?, 260
SETup
    CAL:SETup, 210
    CAL:SETup?, 210
Shield Connections
    When to make, 373
SHUNt
    OUTP:SHUNt, 248
    OUTPut:SHUNt?, 249
Signal, connection to channels, 36 - 38
Signals, outputting trigger, 79
SIZE
    MEM:VME:SIZE, 242
Size, determining an algorithm's, 119
SIZe?
    ALGorithm EXPLicit , 194
SIZE?
    MEM:VME:SIZE?, 243
SOURce
    ARM:SOURce, 205
    ARM:SOURce?, 206
    OUTPut:TTLTrg:SOURce, 249
    TRIG:SOURce, 308
SOURce subsystem, 285, 287 - 290
Source, selecting the trigger, 77
Source, selecting trigger timer arm, 78
SOURce:FM:STATe, 285
SOURce:FM:STATe?, 286
SOURce:FUNC :SHAPe :CONDition, 286
SOURce:FUNC :SHAPe :PULSe, 287
SOURce:FUNC :SHAPe :SQUare, 287
SOURce:PULM:STATe, 287
SOURce:PULM:STATe?, 288
SOURce:PULSe:PERiod, 288
SOURce:PULSe:PERiod?, 289
SOURce:PULSe:WIDTh, 289
SOURce:PULSe:WIDTh?, 289
SOURce?
    TRIG:SOURce?, 309
Sources
    arm, 77
    trigger, 77
Special considerations, 99
Special identifiers for channels, 123
Special VT1419A reserved keywords, 122
Specifications, 329
Specifying the data format, 75
SQUare
    SOURce:FUNC :SHAPe :SQUare, 287
Standard Commands for Programmable Instruments, SCPI, 184
Standard EU operation, 96
Standard event group examples, 92
Standard reserved keywords, 122
Starting algorithms, 80
STAT:OPER:CONDition?, 293
STAT:OPER:ENABle, 294

STAT:OPER:ENABle?, 294
STAT:OPER:EVENt?, 295
STAT:OPER:NTRansition, 295
STAT:OPER:NTRansition?, 296
STAT:OPER:PTRansition, 296
STAT:OPER:PTRansition?, 297
STAT:PRESet, 297
STAT:QUES:CONDition?, 298
STAT:QUES:ENABle, 299
STAT:QUES:ENABle?, 299
STAT:QUES:EVENt?, 299
STAT:QUES:NTRansition, 300
STAT:QUES:NTRansition?, 301
STAT:QUES:PTRansition, 301
STAT:QUES:PTRansition?, 302
STATe
    ALGorithm :EXPLicit , 195
    DIAG:OTD :STATe , 224
    DIAG:OTD :STATe ?, 225
    INP:FILT:LPAS:STATe, 236
    INP:FILT:LPAS:STATe?, 236
    MEM:VME:STATe, 243
    MEM:VME:STATe?, 244
    OUTPut:CURRent:STATe, 247
    OUTPut:CURRent:STATe?, 247
    SOURce:PULM:STATe, 287
STATe?
    ALGorithm :EXPLicit , 196
    SOURce:PULM:STATe?, 288
Statement, algorithm language
    writecvt(), 112
    writefifo(), 113
Statement:, 132
Statement-list:, 132
Statements and functions, intrinsic
    abs(expression), 124
    interrupt(), 113, 124
    max(expression1,expression2), 124
    min(expression1,expression2), 124
    writeboth(expression,cvt_element), 124
    writecvt(expression,cvt_element), 124
    writefifo(expression), 113, 124
Statements:, 124
Static discharge safe handling, CAUTION, 16
Static state (CONDition) function, 67, 69
STATus subsystem, 291, 293 - 302
Storage, defining data, 75 - 76
STORe
    CAL:STORe, 211
STRain
    SENS:FUNC:STRain, 272
Structure, overall program, 137
Structures, data, 126
Sub subsystem, 218 - 231, 241 - 244
Subsystem
    ABORT, 185
    ARM, 204 - 206
    CALibration, 207 - 217
    DIAGnostic, 218 - 226
    FETCh?, 227 - 228
    FORMat, 229 - 231
    INITiate, 232
    INPut, 233 - 240
    MEMory, 241 - 244
    OUTPut, 245 - 253
    ROUTe, 254 - 255
    SAMPle, 256 - 257
    SENSe, 258 - 284
    SOURce, 285, 287 - 290
    STATus, 291, 293 - 302
    SYSTem, 303
    TRIGger, 305 - 310
Summary, 97
Summary, language syntax, 129 - 132
Supplying the reference temperature, 64
support, 13
support resources, 13
Swapping, defining an algorithm for, 118
Switch, setting the logical address, 15
Symbols, the operations, 134
Syntax, Variable Command, 179
SYST:CTYPe?, 303
SYST:ERRor?, 304
SYST:VERSion?, 304
SYSTem subsystem, 303
System wiring offsets, 97
System, setting up the trigger, 77 - 79
System, using the status, 88 - 93

T

Tables, creating conversion, 97
Tables, custom EU, 96
TARE
    CAL:TARE:RESet, 214
    CAL:TARE?, 214
Tare cal offset, maximum, 330
TARE?
    CAL:TARE, 212
TCouple
    SENS:FUNC:CUST:TC, 270
technical support, 13
Techniques
    Wiring and noise reduction, 372
TEMPerature
    DIAG:CUST:REF:TEMP, 222
    SENS:FUNC:TEMPerature, 274
    SENS:REF:TEMPerature, 279
Temperature accuracy, 331
Temperature, measuring the reference, 63
Temperature, supplying the reference, 64
Terminal block considerations for TC measurements, 35

Terminal Blocks, 368
Terminal Module, 368
    Attaching and removing the VT1419A, 41 - 42
    Attaching the VT1419A, 41 - 42
    Removing the VT1419A, 41 - 42
    Wiring and attaching the, 39 - 40
Terminal Module Layout, 32
Terminal module wiring maps, 44 - 45
Terminal modules, 30 - 32
The algorithm execution environment, 108
The arithmetic operators, 134
The comparison operators, 134
The logical operators, 134
The main function, 108
The operating sequence, 81
The operations symbols, 134
The static modifier, 125
The status byte group's enable register, 93
Thermistor and RTD measurements, 61
Thermocouple measurements, 62
Thermocouple reference temperature compensation, 63
Thermocouples and CAL:TARE, 98
TIME
    INPut:DEB:TIME, 233
Time relationship of readings in FIFO, 113
TIMe?
    ALGorithm :EXPLicit :TIMe?, 196
Timer
    SAMP:TIMer, 256
    SAMP:TIMer?, 256
TIMer
    TRIG:COUNt, 307
    TRIG:TIMer, 309
Timer, programming the trigger, 79
TIMer?
    TRIG:TIMer?, 310
TOTalize
    SENSe:FUNCtion:TOTalize, 275
Totalizer function, 67
Transducers, detecting open, 100
TRIG:COUNt, 307
TRIG:COUNt?, 307
TRIG:IMMediate, 308
TRIG:SOURce, 308
TRIG:SOURce?, 309
TRIG:TIMer, 309
TRIG:TIMer?, 310
TRIGger subsystem, 305 - 310
trigger system
    ABORt subsystem, 185
    ARM subsystem, 204 - 206
    INITiate subsystem, 232
    TRIGger subsystem, 305 - 310
Trigger, variable width pulse per, 69
TTLTrg:SOURce
    OUTPut:TTLTrg:SOURce?, 250
TTLTrg<n>
    OUTP:TTLT<n>:STATe?, 251
    OUTP:TTLTrg<n>:STATe, 250
TYPe
    OUTPut:TYPE, 251
Type, setting output drive, 68
TYPe?
    OUTPut:TYPE?, 252
Types, data, 125

U

Unary arithmetic operator, 134
Unary logical operator, 123
Unary operators, 123
Unary-expression:, 130
Unary-operator:, 130
Unexpected channel offsets or overloads, 99
UNSTrained
    SENSe:STRain:UNSTrained, 282
    SENSe:STRain:UNSTrained?, 282
Updating the algorithm variables, 85
Updating the algorithm variables and coefficients, 85
Updating the status system and VXI interrupts, 95
Usage, example language, 107
Using the status system, 88 - 93

V

Value types
    parameter data, 183
    returned, 183
Values, assigning, 133
Variable Command Syntax, 179
Variable definition
    global, 73
Variable frequency square-wave output (FM), 70
Variable width pulse per trigger, 69
Variable width pulses at fixed frequency (PWM), 69
Variables
    reading directly, 83
Variables, declaring, 133
Variables, global, 128
Variables, initializing, 112
Variables, modifying running algorithm, 85
Verifying a successful configuration, 23
VERsion
    DIAG:VERSion?, 226
VERsion?
    SYST:VERSion?, 304
Voids Warranty
    Cutting Input Protect Jumper, 21
Voltage
    CAL:VALue:VOLTage, 215
VOLTage

CAL:CONF:VOLT, 209
SENS:FUNC:VOLTage, 276
Voltage, setting the VT1511A strain bridge SCP excitation, 58
VOLTage:AMPLitude
OUTPut:VOLTage:AMPLitude, 252
OUTPut:VOLTage:AMPLitude?, 252
VT1419A background operation, 94
VT1419A, configuring the, 15 - 22

W

Warranty, 2
Voided by cutting Input Protect Jumper, 21
What *CAL? does, 71
When to make shield connections, 373
When:, re-execute *CAL?, 72
Which FIFO mode?, 83
WIDTh
SOURce:PULSe:WIDTh, 289
WIDTh?
SOURce:PULSe:WIDTh?, 289
WINDow
ALGorithm:UPDate:WINDow, 202
WINDow?
ALGorithm:UPDate:WINDow?, 203
Wiring
planning for thermocouple, 28
planning layout, 25 - 28
signal connection, 36 - 38
Wiring and attaching the terminal module, 39 - 40
Wiring maps
Terminal Module, 44 - 45
Wiring techniques, for noise reduction, 372
Wiring the terminal module, 39 - 40
writeboth(expression,cvt_element), 124
writecvt(expression,cvt_element), 124
writefifo(expression), 113, 124
Writing the algorithm, 120
Writing values to CVT elements, 112
Writing values to the FIFO, 113

Z

ZERO?
CAL:ZERO?, 216